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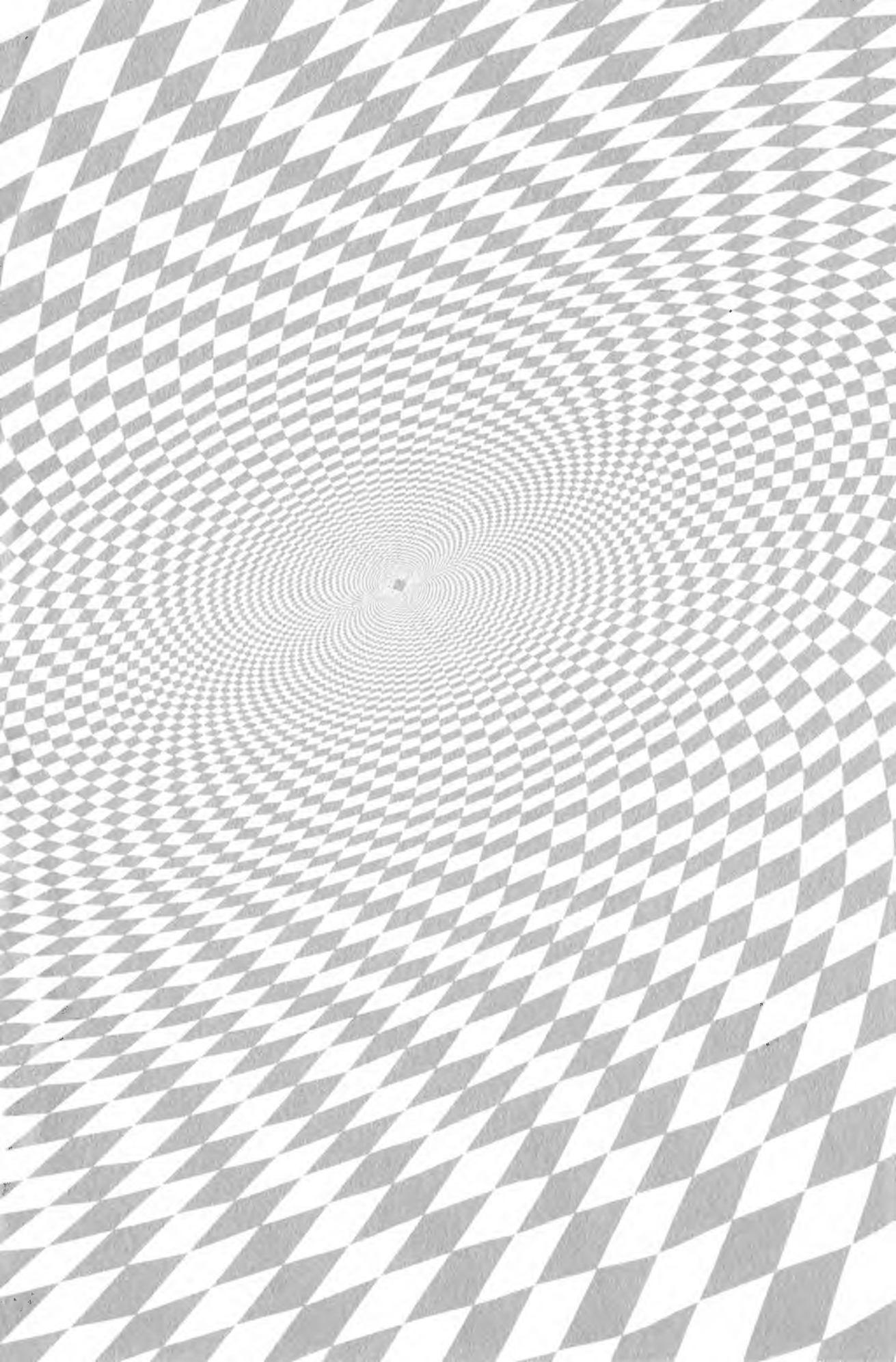
SOIL［ソイル］3 カネコアツシ



SOIL ソイル

③ CONTENTS

Translated by
Meriken
Lettered by
Nomad Soul
kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

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Main Characters

Onoda ..... Kamikawa Station police officer.

Yokoi ..... Sergeant as above. Onoda's boss.

Tamura ..... Detective as above.

Katakuri ..... Soil New Town police officer.

Ichinose ..... Katakuri's co-worker. Disappeared.

Masaki Suzushiro ..... Family father living in Soil New Town. Disappeared.

Noriko Suzushiro ..... His wife. Disappeared.

Mizuki Suzushiro ..... Their daughter. Soil Middle School 8th grader. Disappeared.

Kento Miyahara ..... A teenager raised in a fatherless family. Soil Middle School 8th grader.

Tomiyama ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

Seki ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

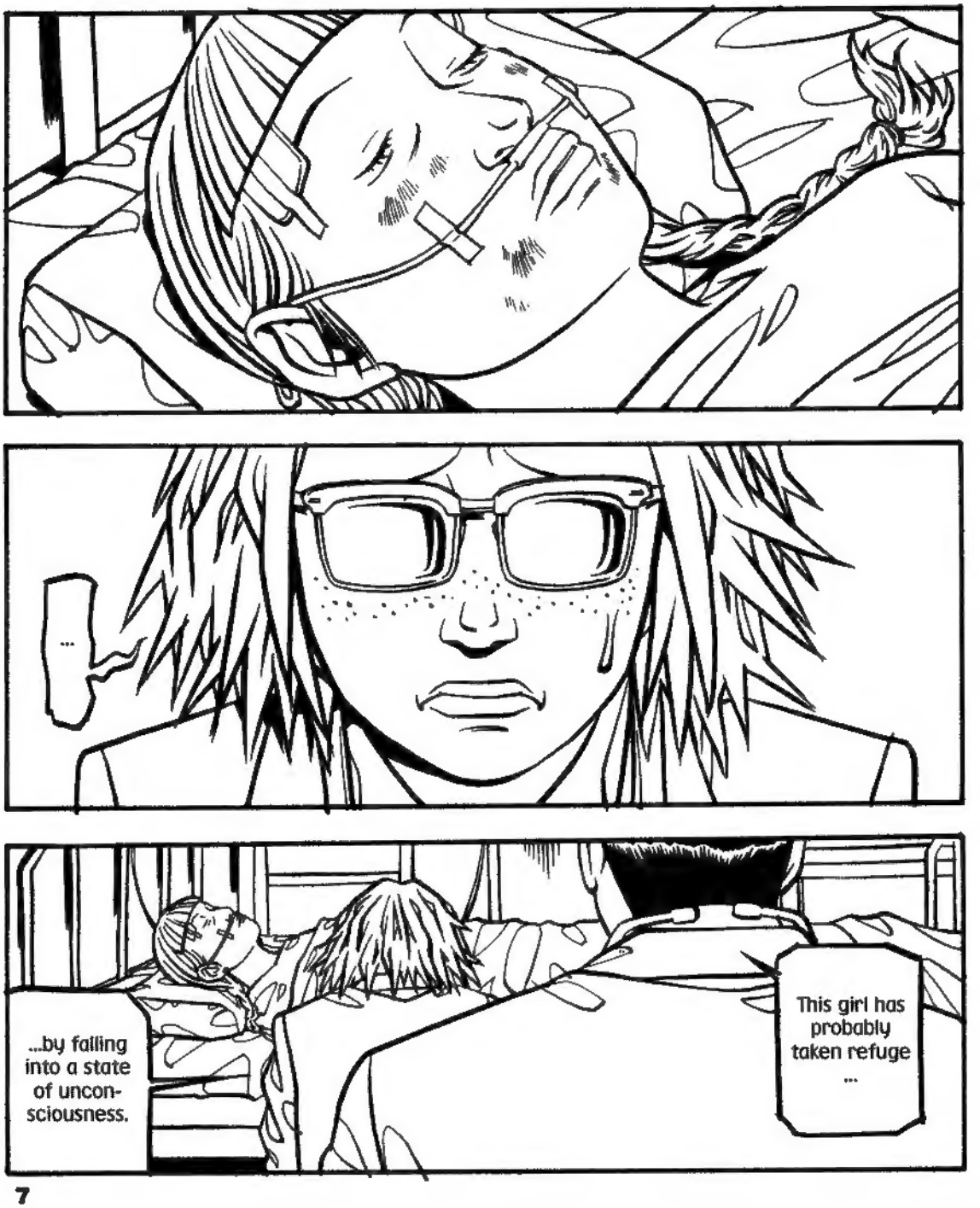
Tokita ..... Soil Middle School, temporary science instructor.

Kosaka ..... Soil Middle School, school counselor.

"Miss Sayuri" ..... An old woman living in the shrine ruins located on the town outskirts.

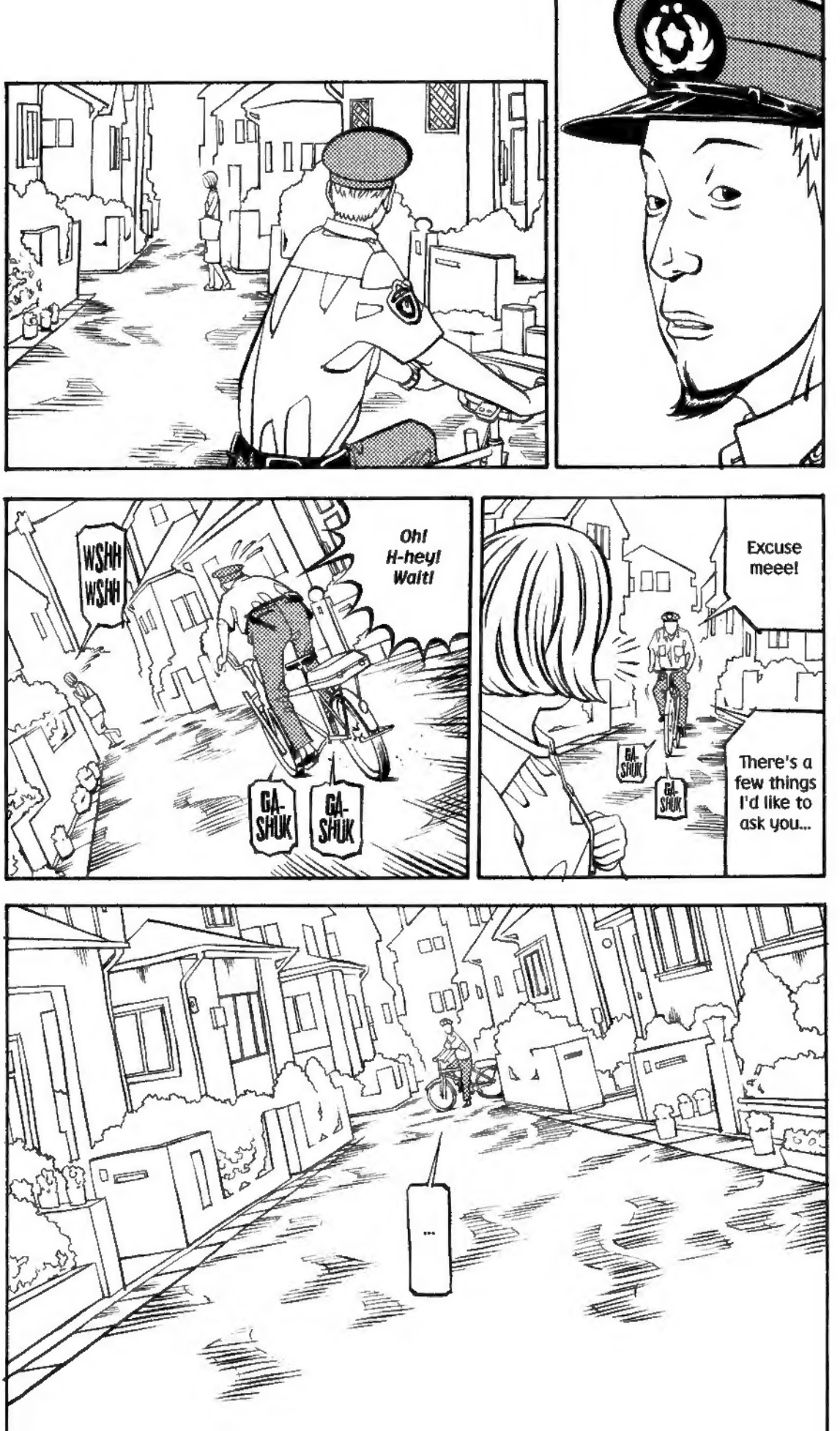
"Council President" .... Soil New Town Council President.

BLOCK 1-17

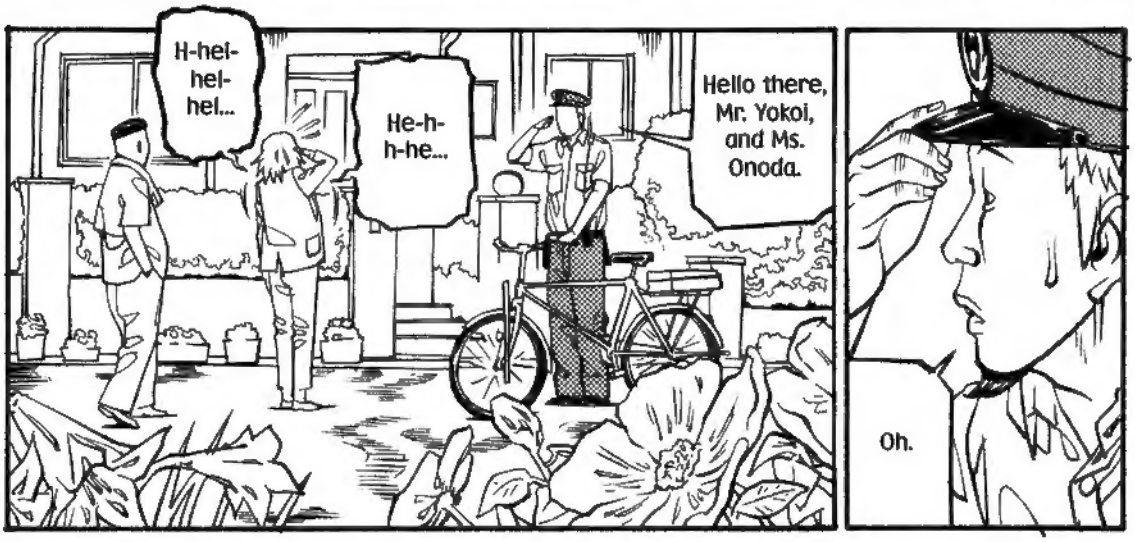

...
...by falling into a state of uncon-sciousness.
This girl has probably taken refuge ...

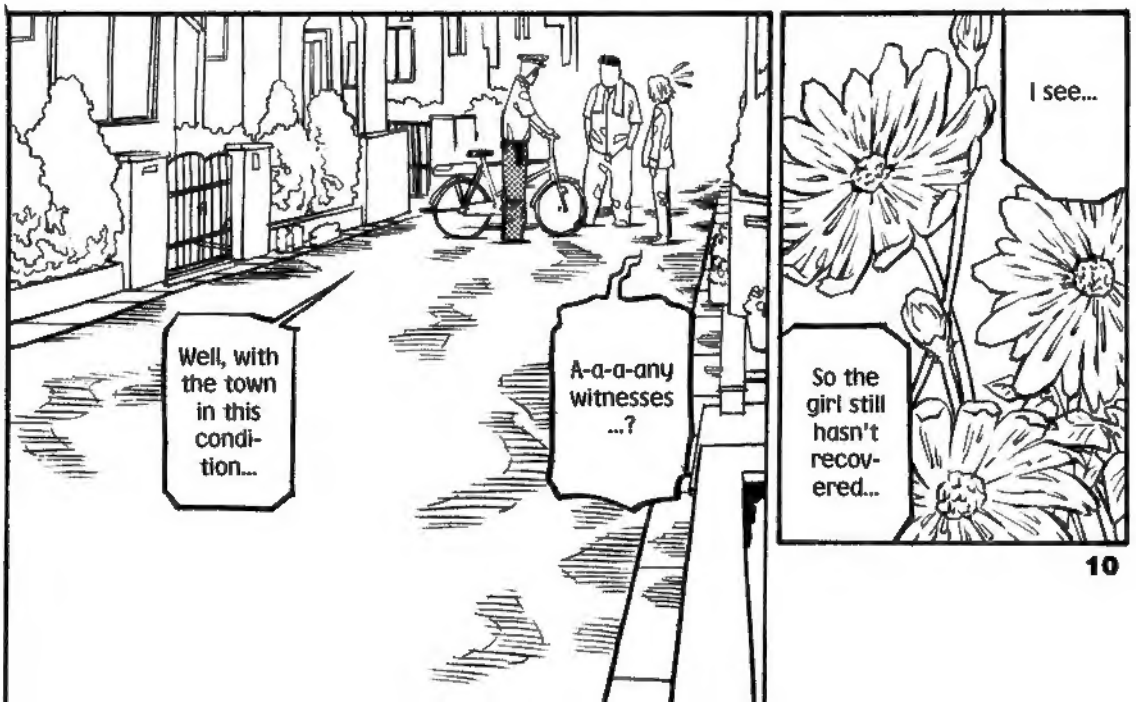
It's a cruel world, isn't it...?
Quite appalling, really...
After all, she's going to have to face the reality of what happened to her when she wakes up...
Let's get the hell outta here.
How much longer are you gonna fool around, Onoda?
...
SIGH

[A Cruel World]


WSHH WSHH
Oh! H-hey! Wait!
GA-SHUK
GA-SHUK
Excuse meee!
There's a few things I'd like to ask you...
GA-SHUK
GA-SHUK
...

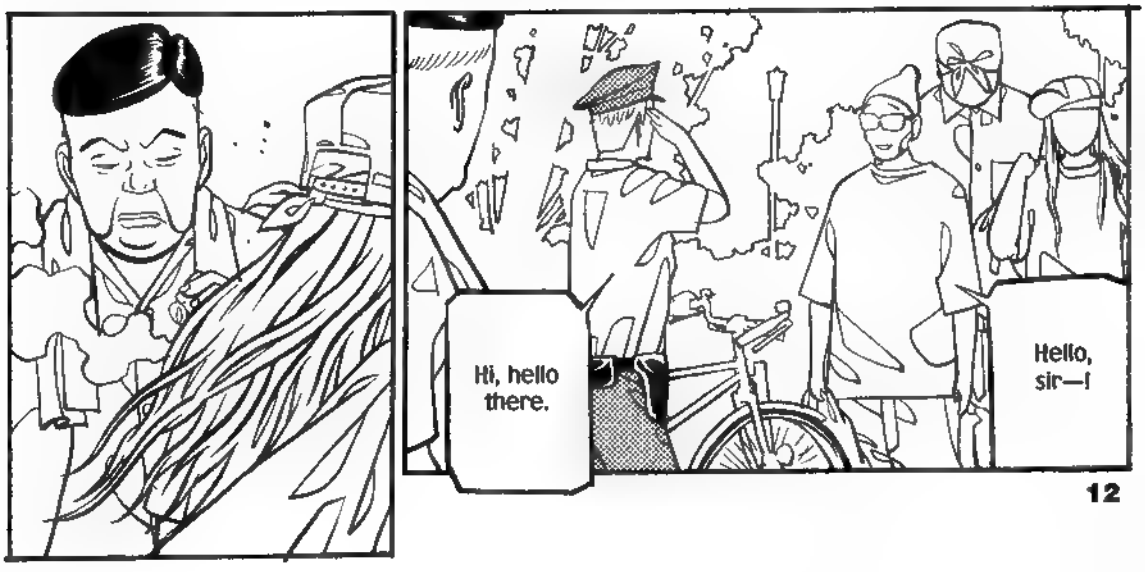
Guess I went a little too far with the scolding...
Man, this is awkward...


H-hel-hel-hel...
He-h-h-he...
Hello there, Mr. Yokoi, and Ms. Onoda.
Oh.

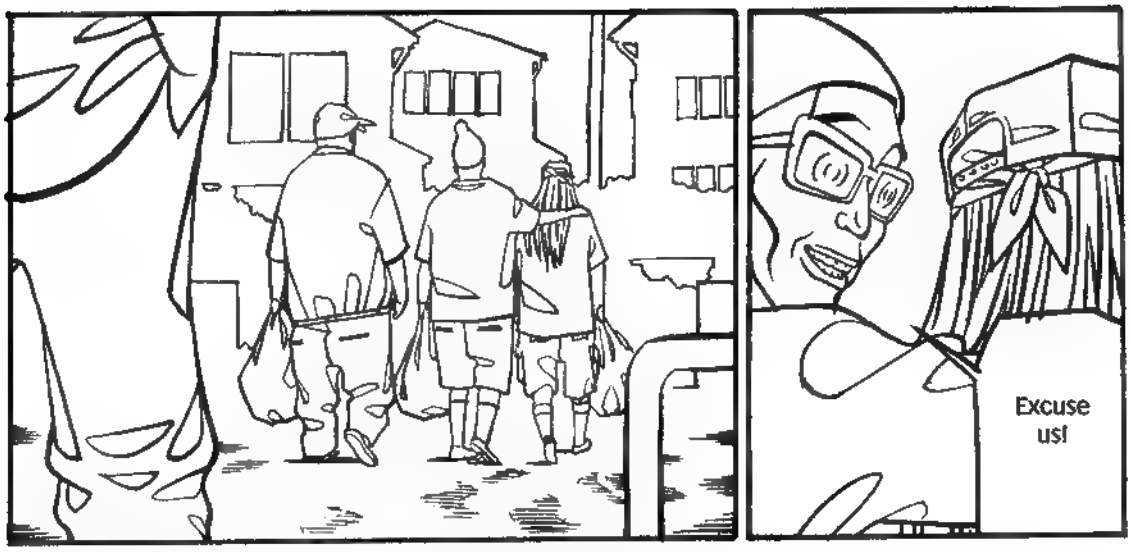

Well, with the town in this condition...
A-a-a-any witnesses ...?
So the girl still hasn't recovered...
I see...

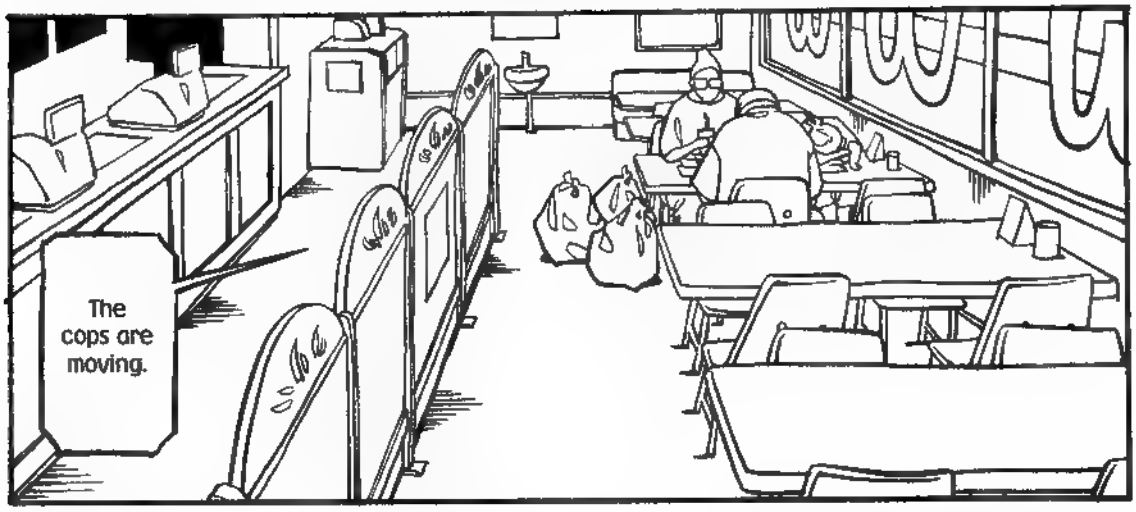
Ahh?!
Y-y-you have our full cooperation...
We don't have time to stick our heads into stupid cases, you idiot!
We're dealing with the Suzushiros' disappearance!
I won't rest till I've put the cuffs on him myself!
But I'm gonna catch that son of a bitch no matter what!
S-S-S-Sergeant Yokoi—!
We gotta find that dick-rubbing brat.
Let's go, Onoda.
TOOF
H-h-have you no compassion, Sergeant Yokoi...?
Y-y-you're calling it a stupid case again...!
HO-HUM

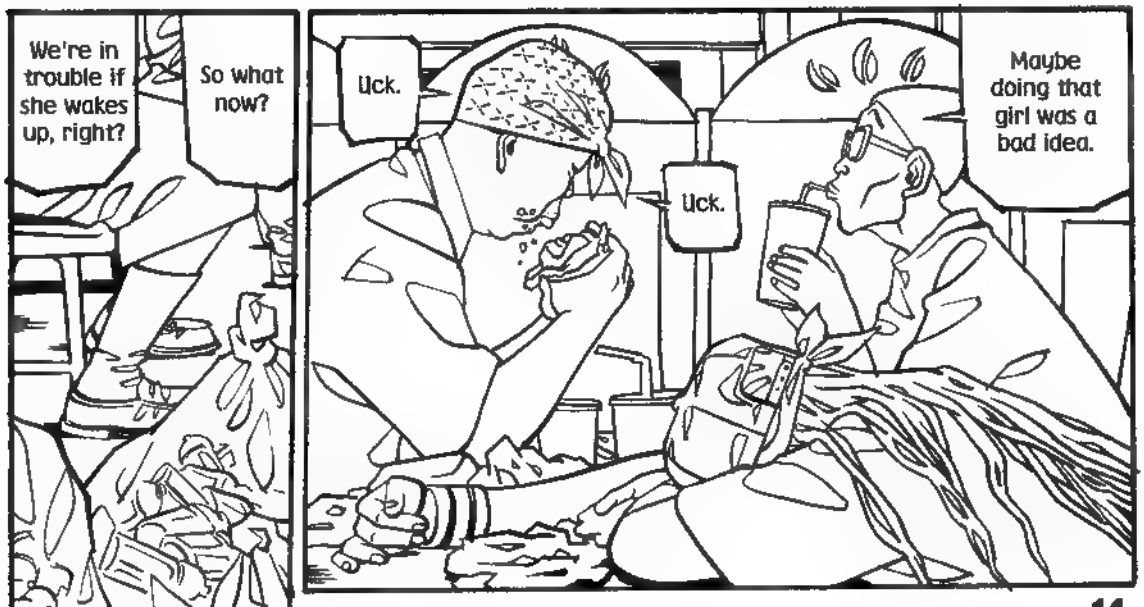
They may not look it, but I guess they really love this town...
...
...but they're originally from "Soil." They come back every now and then...
They left town after graduating middle school...
...and clean the parks on their own like that.
Ohh, they're an admirable group of kids.

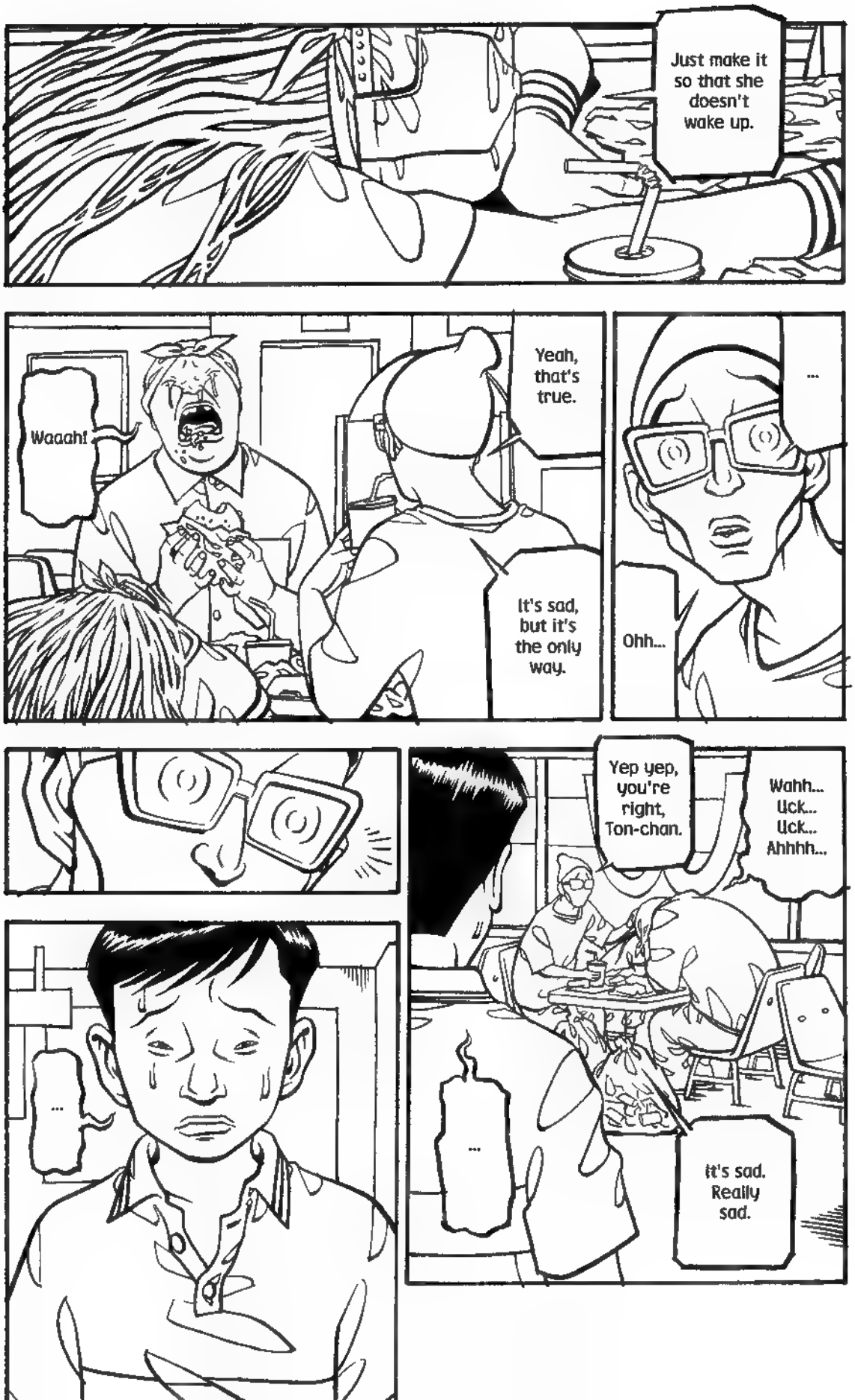

Hi, hello there.
Hello, sir—!

?!
KLUNK
KLOMP
KLUNK
CRUNK
What the fuck, man?!
Mi... Mit-chan...
Mr. Yokoi, what are you...?

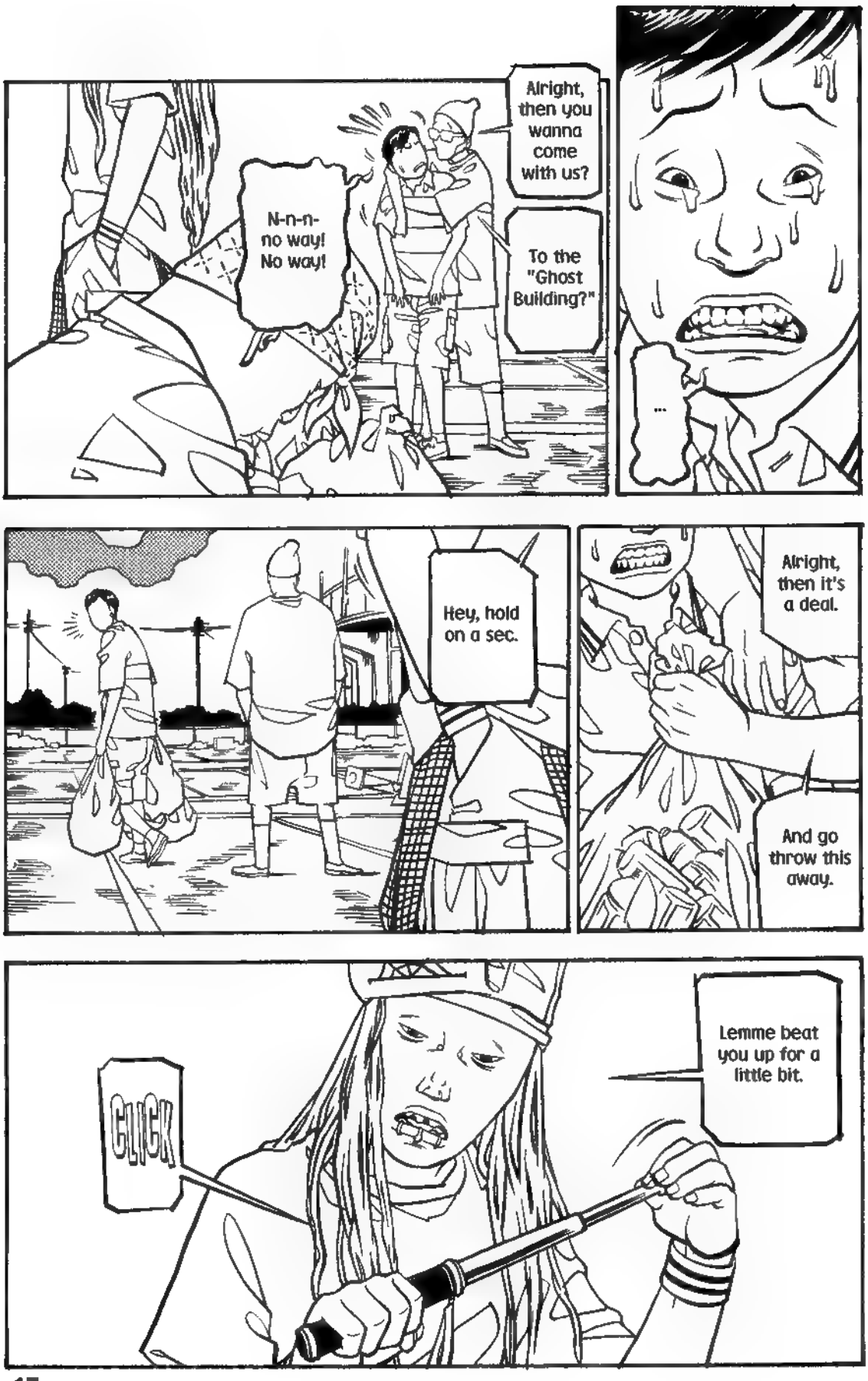

Excuse us!

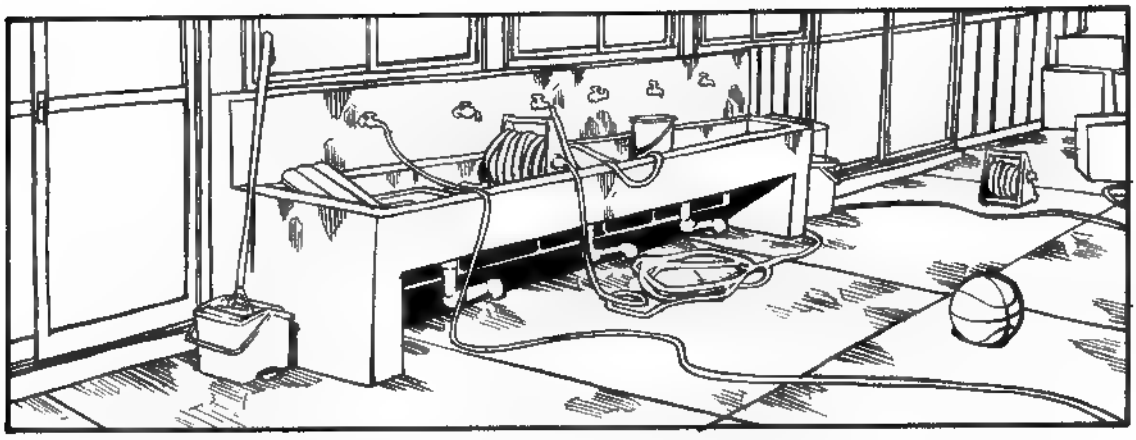

The cops are moving.

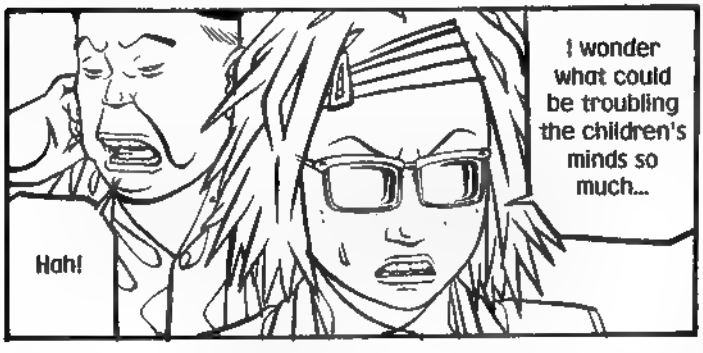

We're in trouble if she wakes up, right?
So what now?
Uck.
Uck.
Maybe doing that girl was a bad idea.


Just make it so that she doesn't wake up.
Waaah!
Yeah, that's true.
It's sad, but it's the only way.
...
Ohh...
...
Yep yep, you're right, Ton-chan.
Wahh... Uck... Uck... Ahhhh...
...
It's sad. Really sad.
...

Whaaat ?!
I want you to bring us a photo of your parents having sex.
Alright, then next time...
Thanks a bunch.
This must've been a lotta work.
But... I don't want to...
I don't want to watch that...
Huh? What, you think they don't do it?
Just keep watching them for a while and they'll start it up!
N-n-n-no way! Th-that's impos-sible!
Watch it all with your very own eyes!
You have to watch, even if you don't want to!

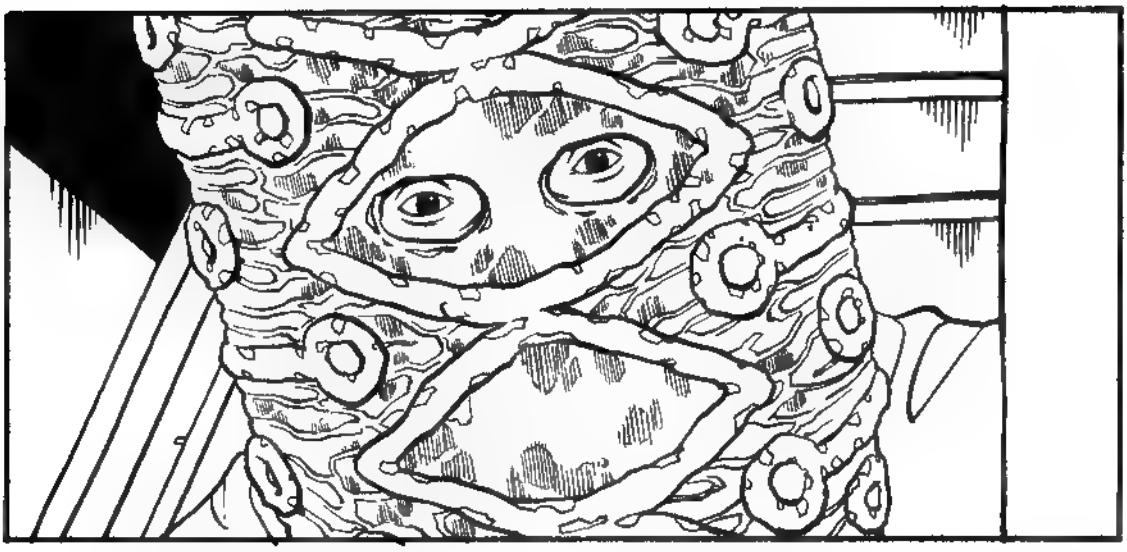

Alright, then you wanna come with us?
N-n-n-no way! No way!
To the "Ghost Building?"
...
Hey, hold on a sec.
Alright, then it's a deal.
And go throw this away.
CLICK
Lemme beat you up for a little bit.



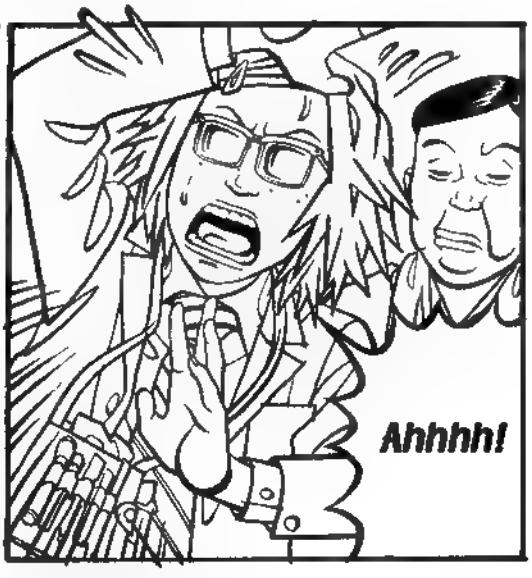

I wonder what could be troubling the children's minds so much...
Hah!

It's silent, just like the rest of the town...

Skipping school. That's the only thing on their minds all year long!

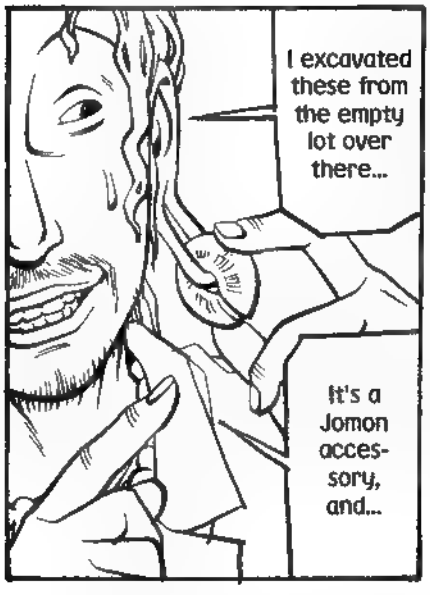


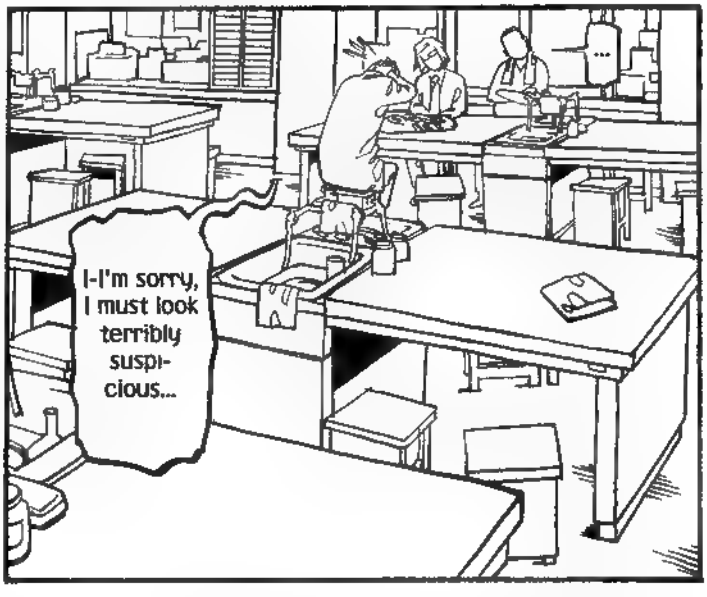
Oh... I'm sorry...
A-are you alright ...?


Ahhhh!

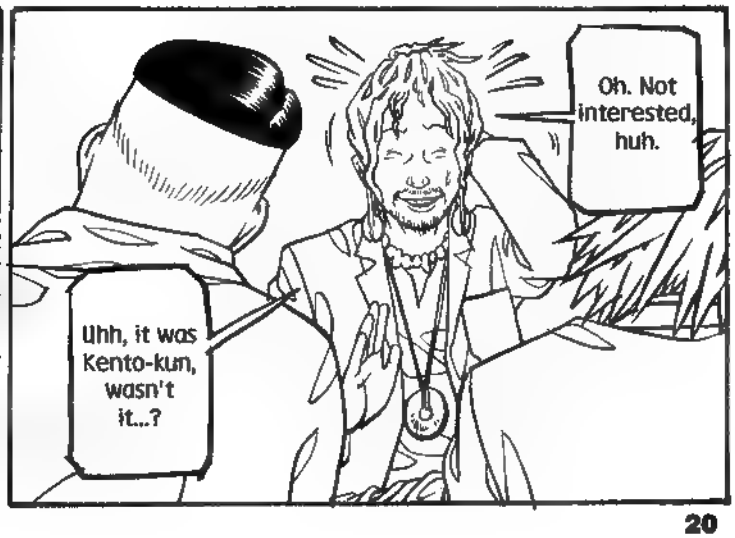
...

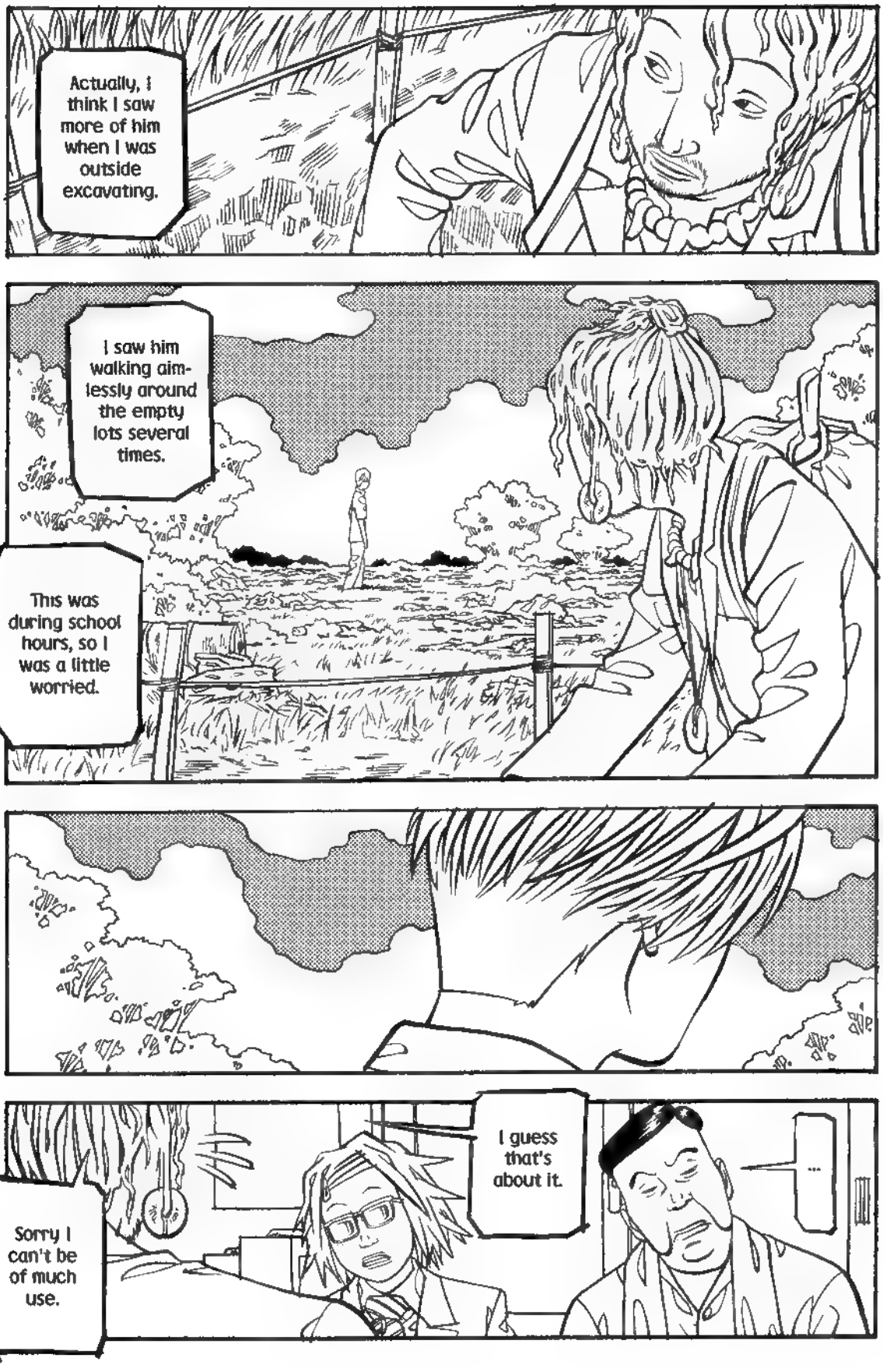
...

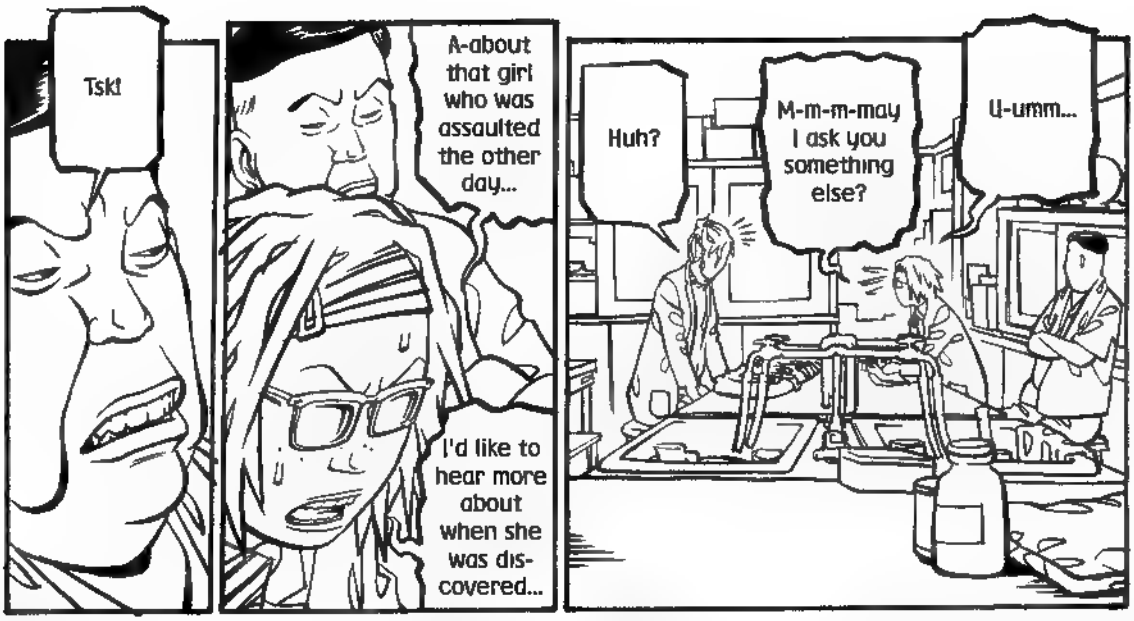

I excavated these from the empty lot over there...
It's a Jomon accessory, and...

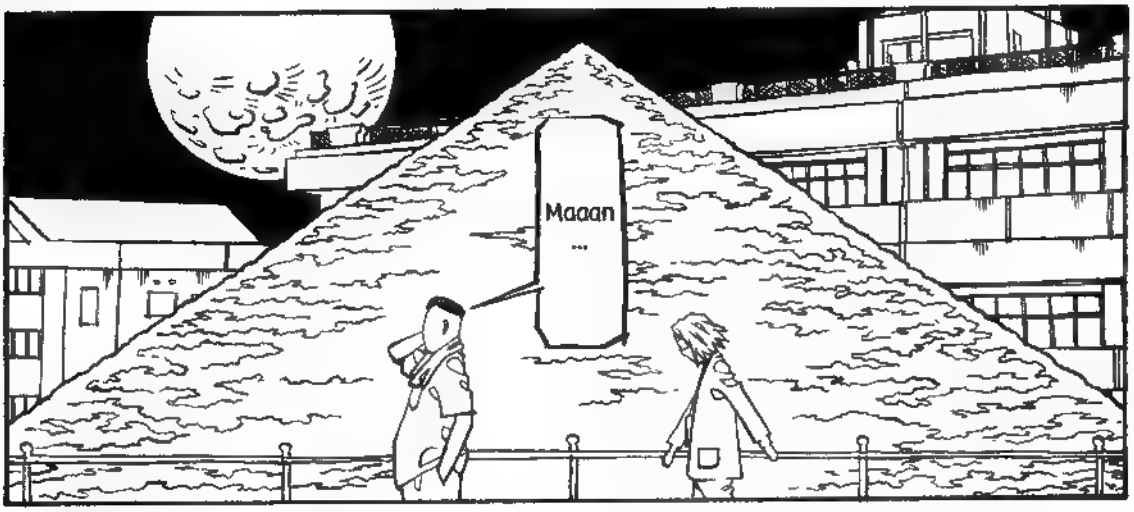

I-I'm sorry, I must look terribly suspicious...

And he was just so quiet all the time, and...
He didn't show up to my classes very often...
Honestly, he didn't leave much of an impression ...

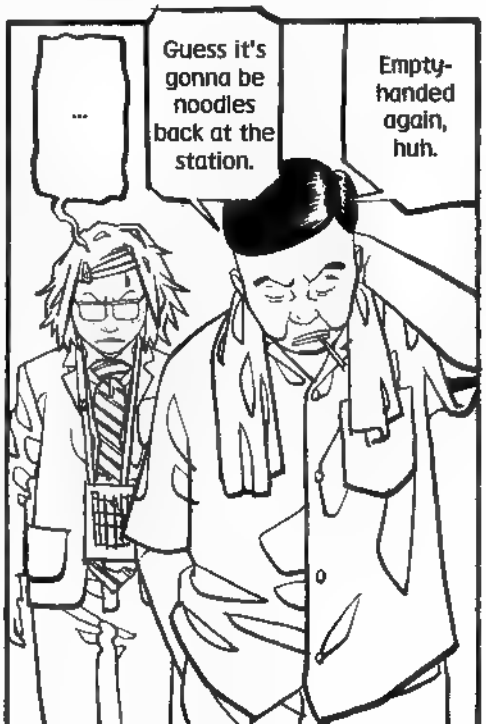

Oh. Not interested, huh.
Uhh, it was Kento-kun, wasn't it...?

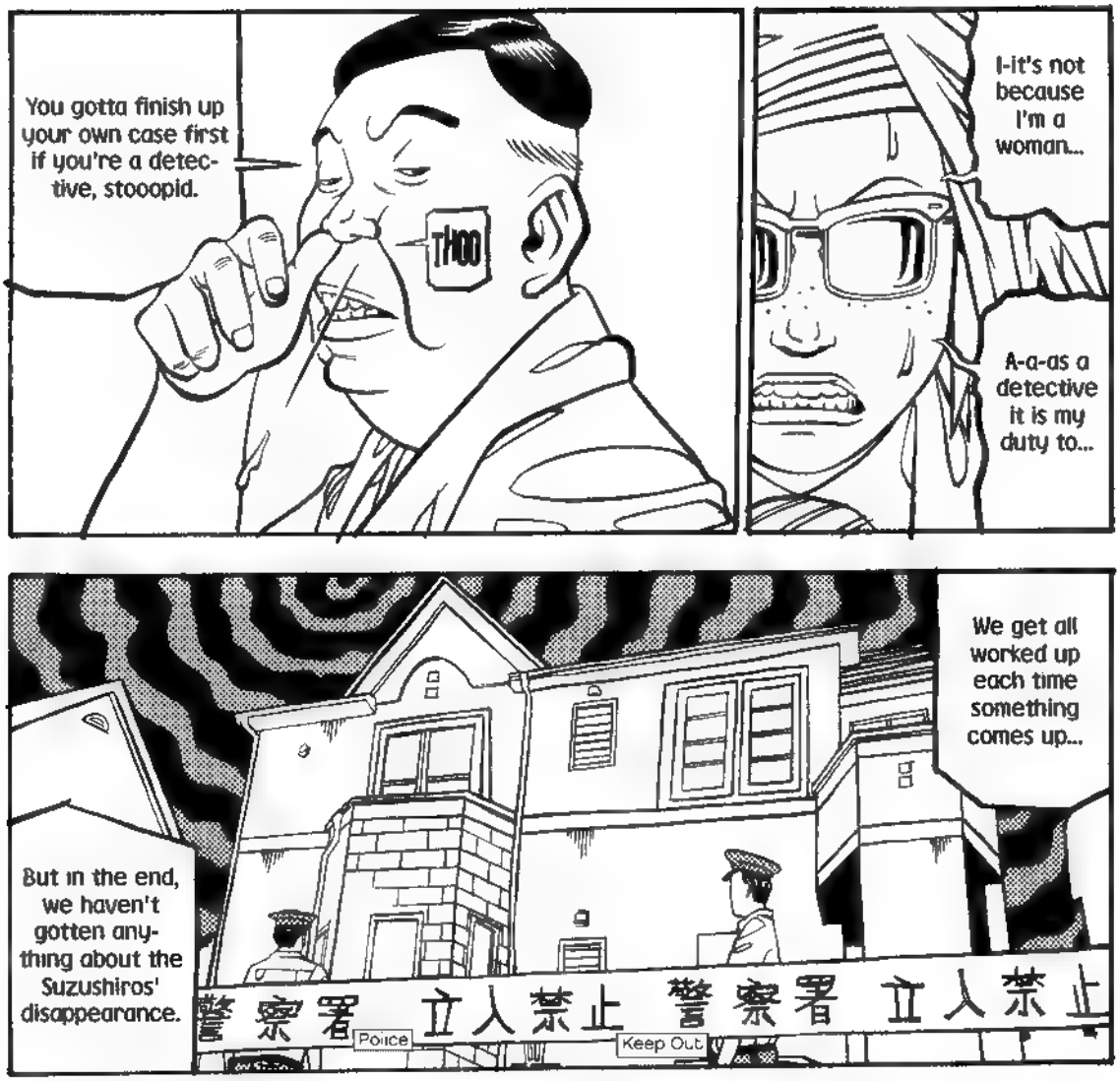

Actually, I think I saw more of him when I was outside excavating.
I saw him walking aimlessly around the empty lots several times.
This was during school hours, so I was a little worried.
I guess that's about it.
...
Sorry I can't be of much use.


Tsk!
A-about that girl who was assaulted the other day...
I'd like to hear more about when she was discovered...
Huh?
M-m-m-may I ask you something else?
U-umm...


Maaan ...

Women start going on a personal crusade when it comes to those kinds of cases.
And what's up with you wasting my precious time like that?


...
Guess it's gonna be noodles back at the station.
Empty-handed again, huh.


You gotta finish up your own case first if you're a detective, stooopid.
THOO
I-it's not because I'm a woman...
A-a-as a detective it is my duty to...
We get all worked up each time something comes up...
But in the end, we haven't gotten anything about the Suzushiros' disappearance.
警察署
立入禁止
Police
Keep Out
THOO
I'm starving already!
Let's get the hell outta here, Onoda.
...
...

Huff! Huff! Huff!

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!

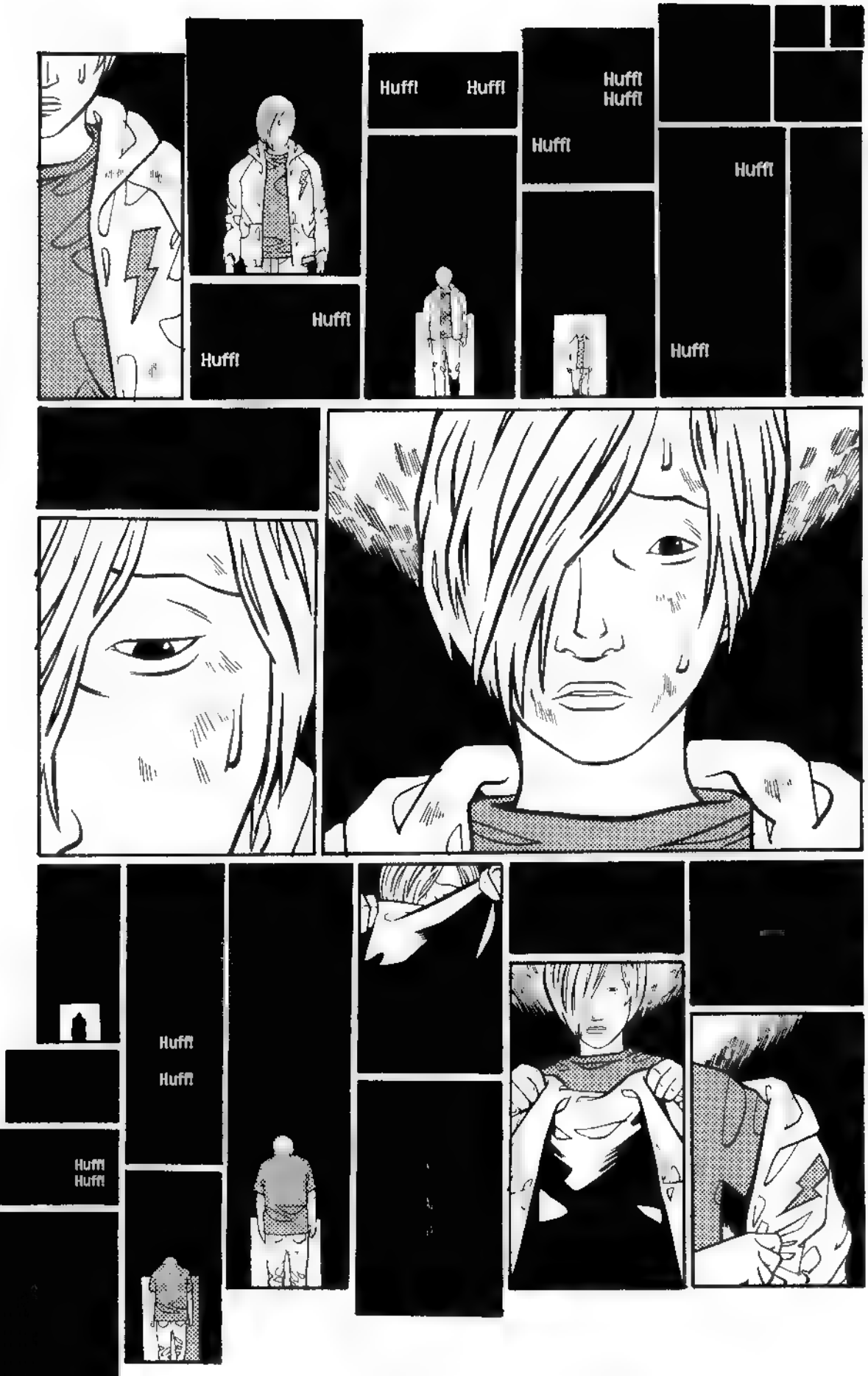
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

Huff! Huff!
Huff! Huff!
Huff! Huff!

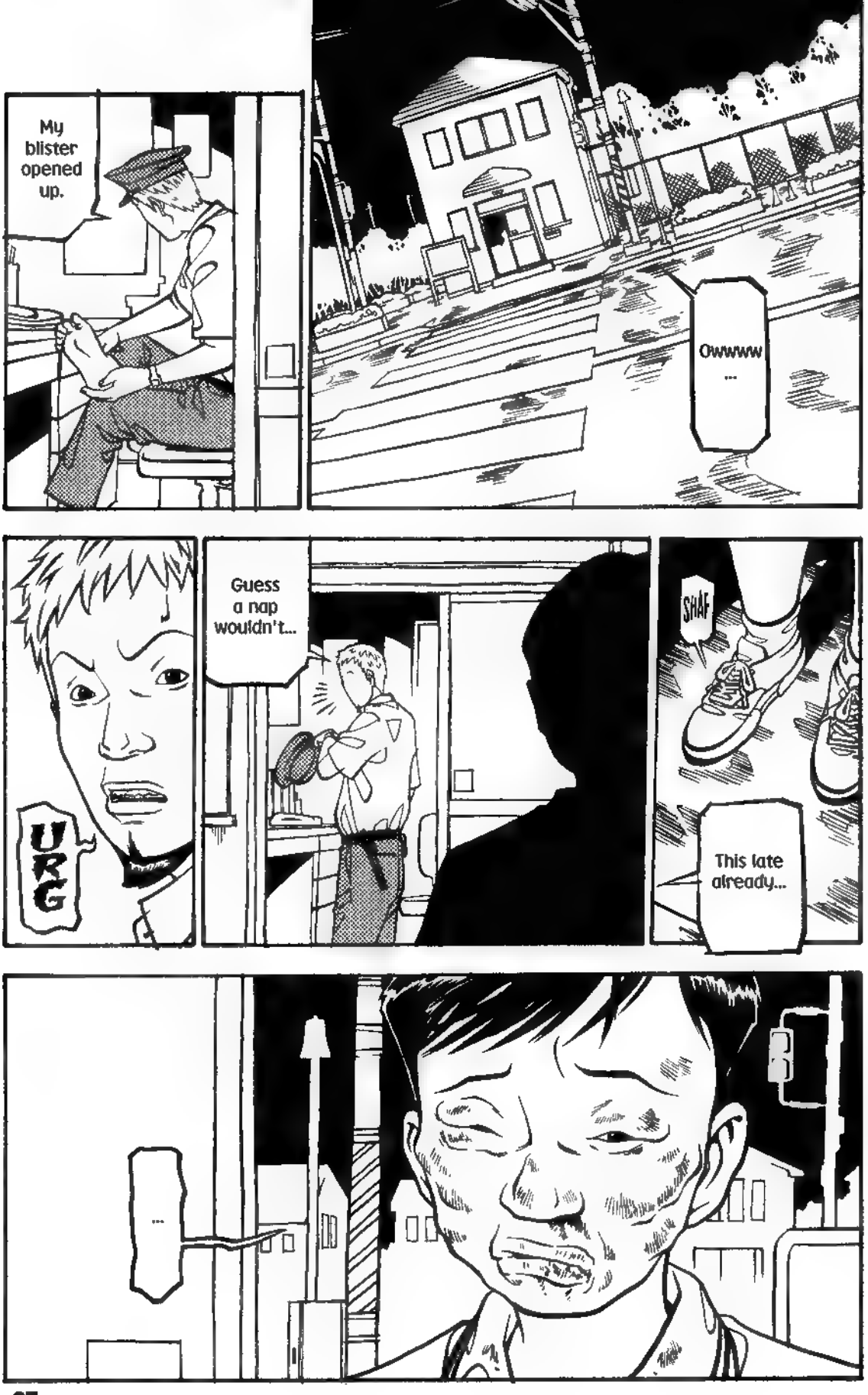
Huff!
Huff!

Huff!
Huff!

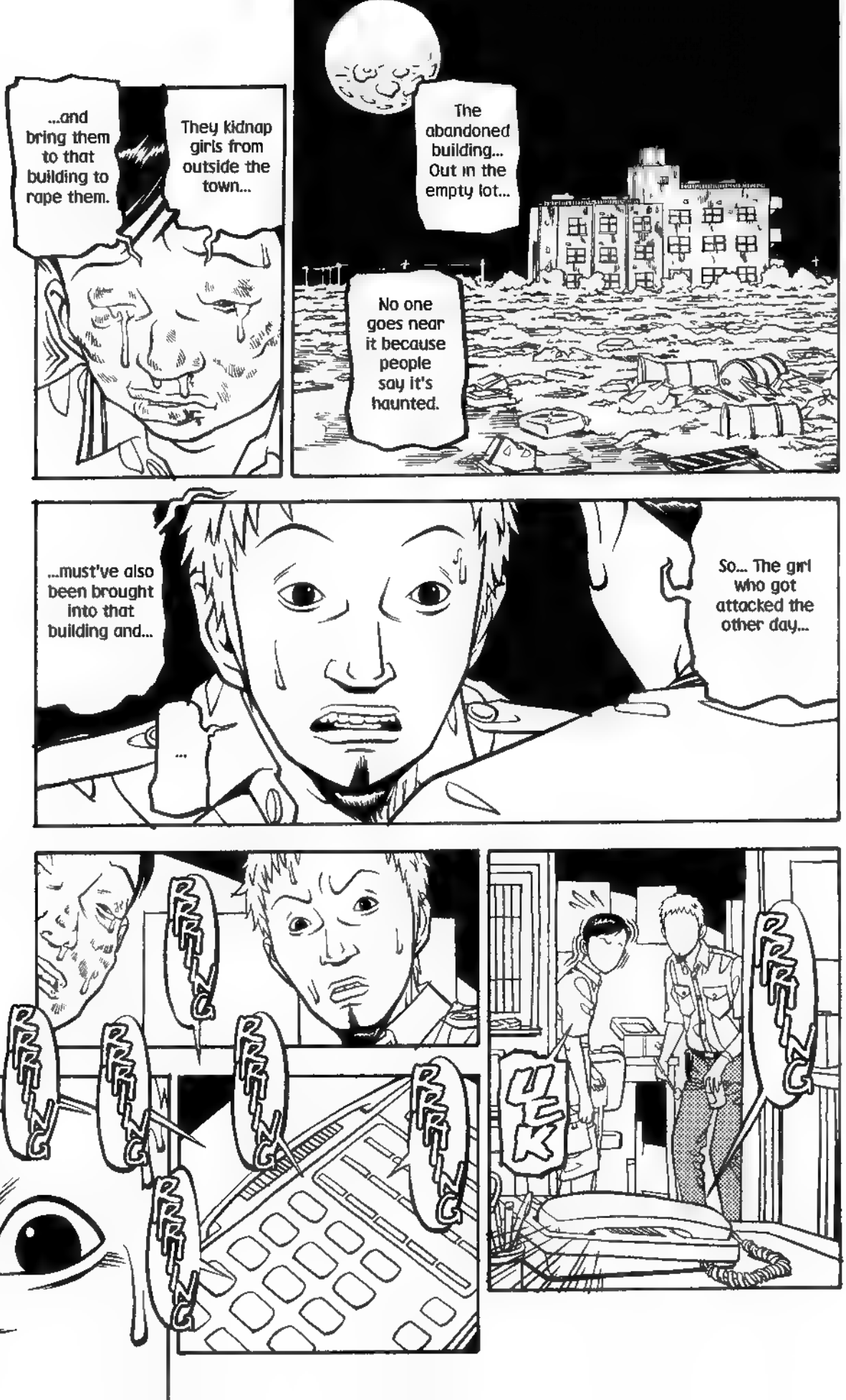

Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

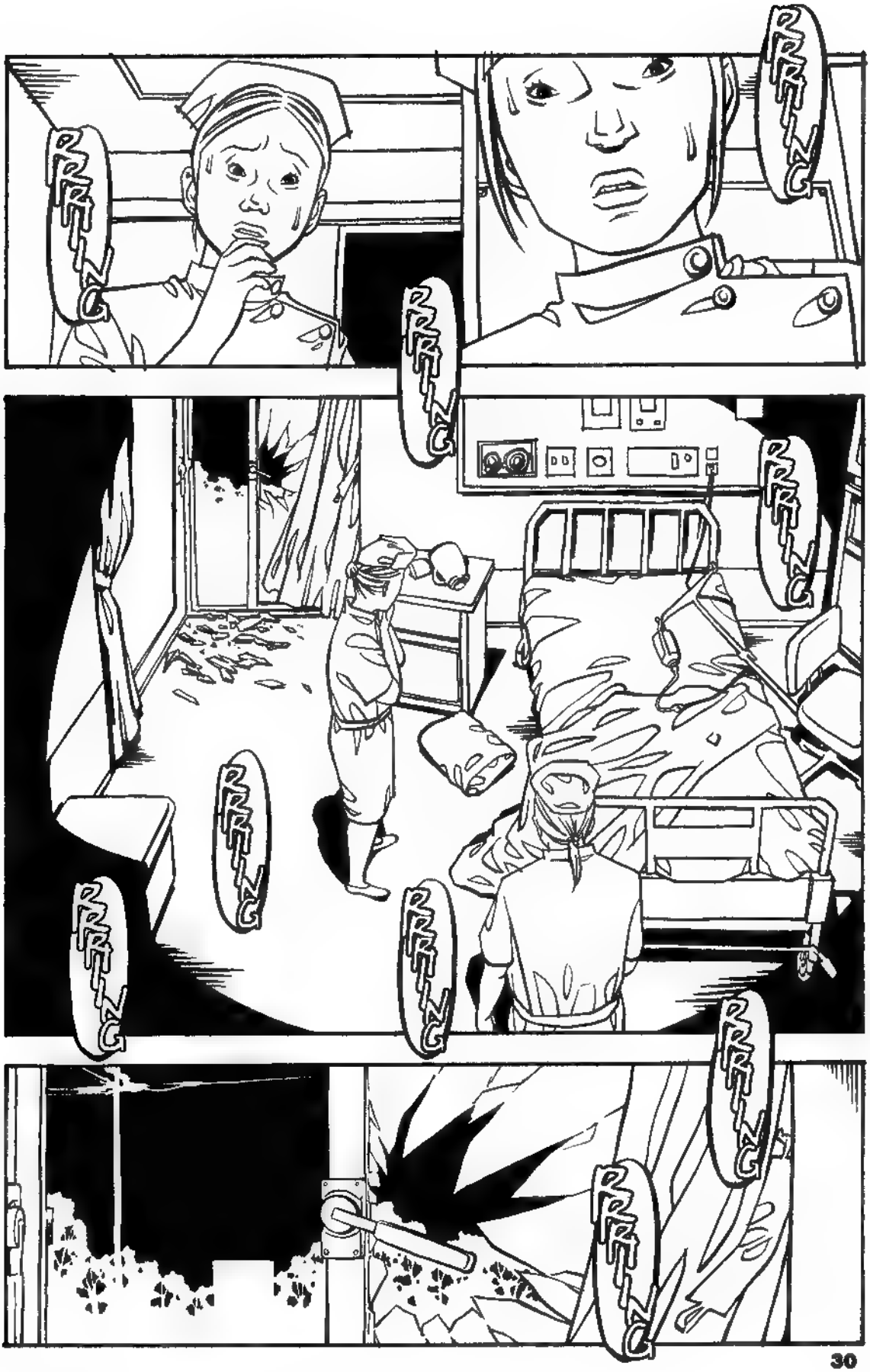
...
Huff...!

Eek...!


My blister opened up.
Owwww ...
URG
Guess a nap wouldn't...
SHAF
This late already...
...

But did those three really...?
O-of course, I promise...
You won't tell anyone I tattled...?
It's almost like... They have some sort of vendetta against the town...
Whenever they come back here... They do all kinds of bad stuff, and...
Where no one's watching ...?
Because... Whenever they do something...
But... Nobody knows anything about that...
...
The "Ghost Building..."
?
They always make sure to do it where no one's watching...


...and bring them to that building to rape them.
They kidnap girls from outside the town...
The abandoned building... Out in the empty lot...
No one goes near it because people say it's haunted.
...must've also been brought into that building and...
...
So... The girl who got attacked the other day...
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
UGK


RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING

SOIL
Block 1-17 [End]

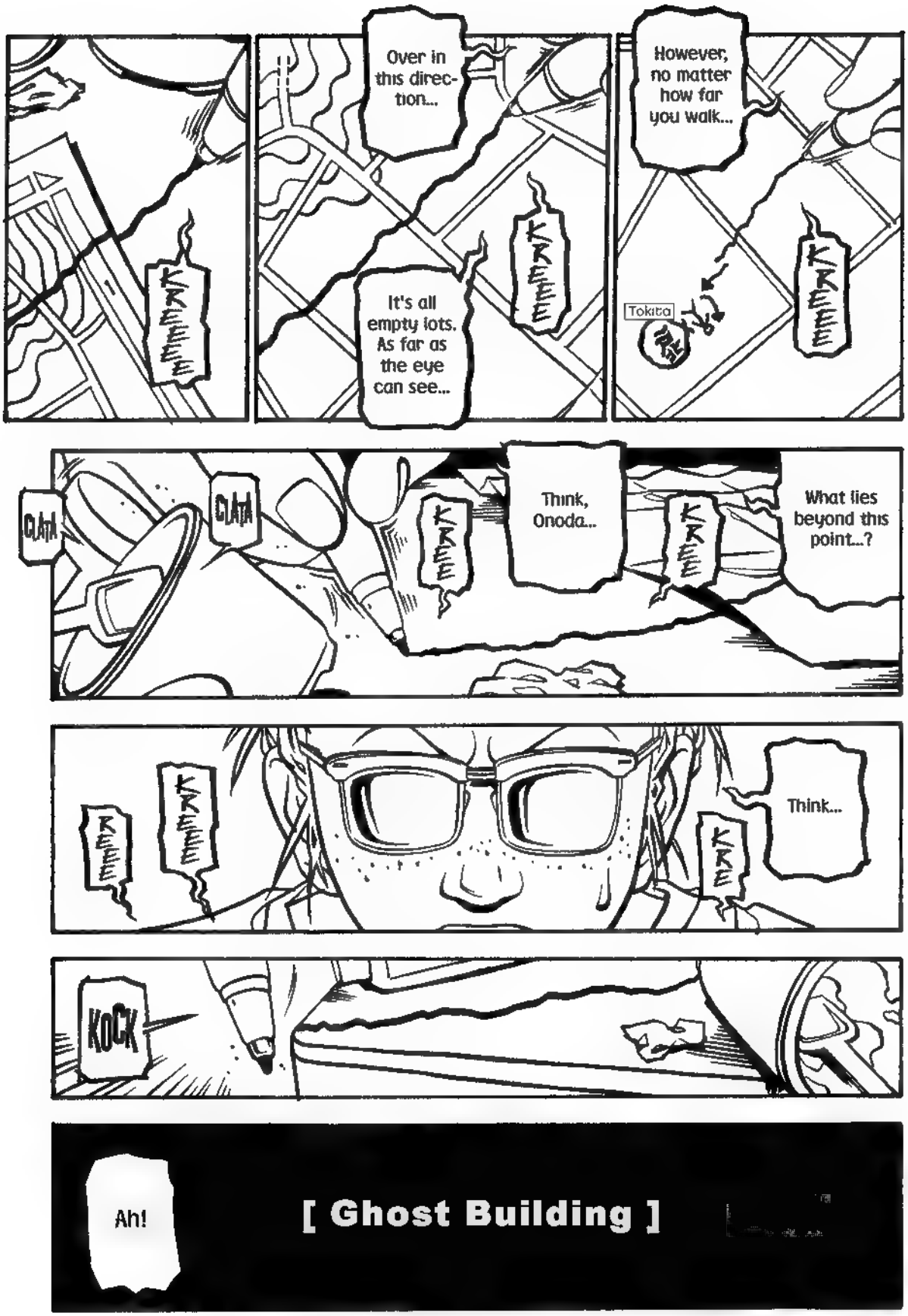
SOIL
Block 1-18 [Ghost Building]

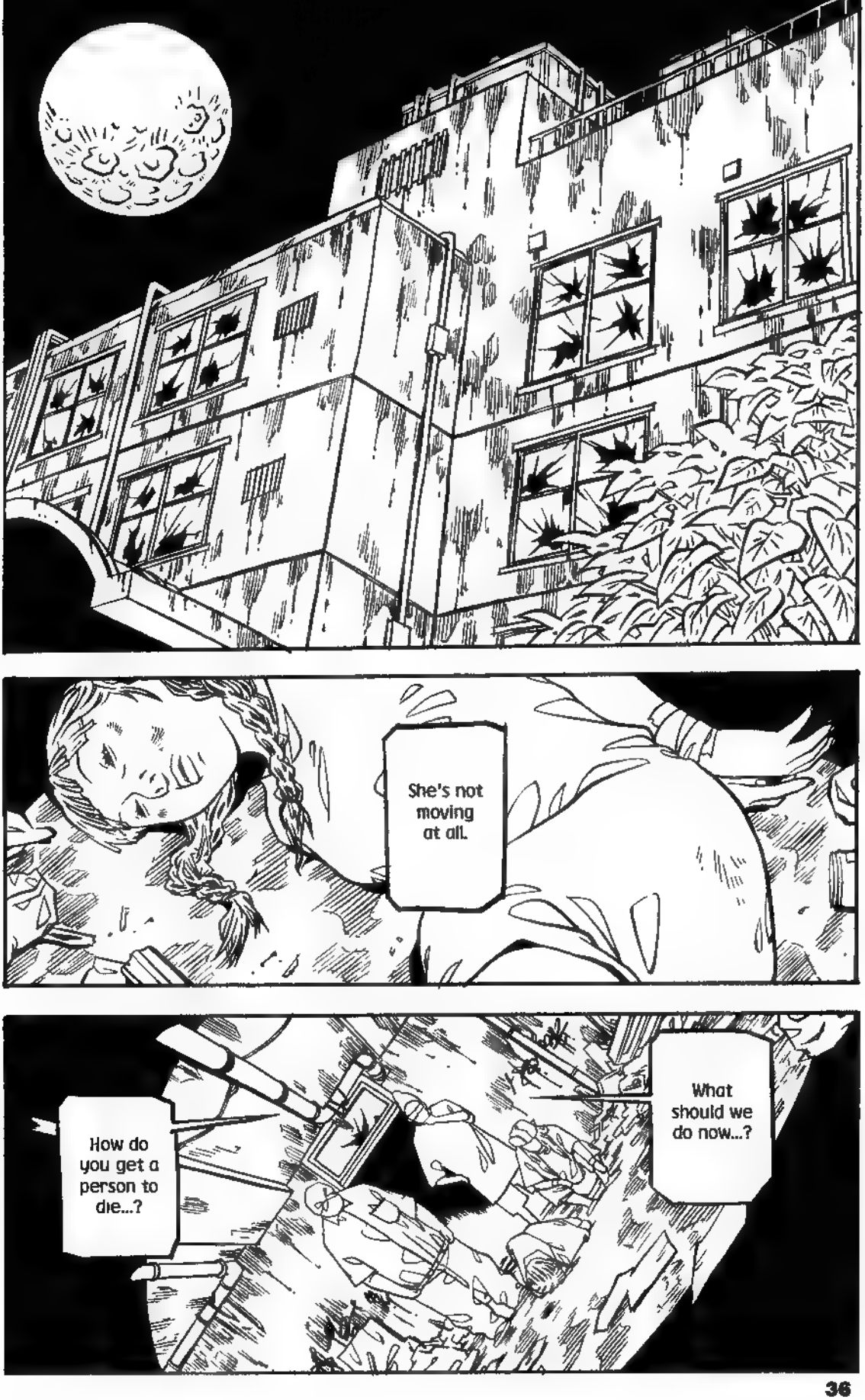
BLOCK 1-18

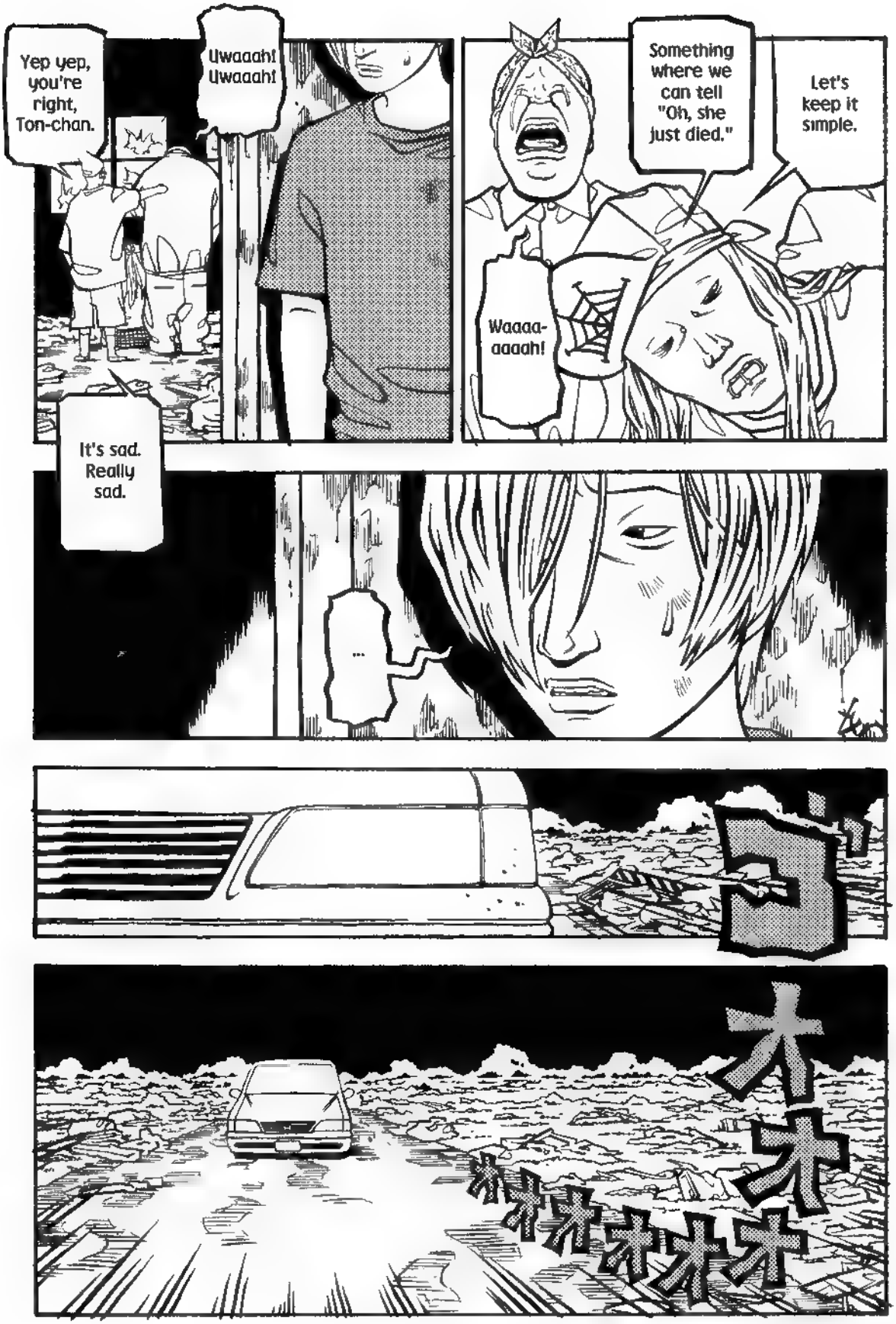
You regis-tered on that dating site, didn't you?
Huh? But aren't you "20-year-old office worker seeking to grumble about her boss?"
T-t-t-that was just on the impulse of the moment...
L-l-look, I asked you to stop calling this number...

I... i-i-i'm...
Hmm?
I'm...
...
I might be able to help you out.
Why don't you tell me what you're having trouble with?

And I'm willing to take on any case! No matter how difficult it may be!
I'm 26 years old! I'm an officer in the criminal investigation department!
HAP
HAP
Aaaaghhh!
KLUD
CLICK
KREE
KREE
KREE
KREE
That day, Mr. Tokita was doing his excavation work in this vicinity...
The girl came walking over from this direction... And fell.
Tokita
ニューカマー(3)

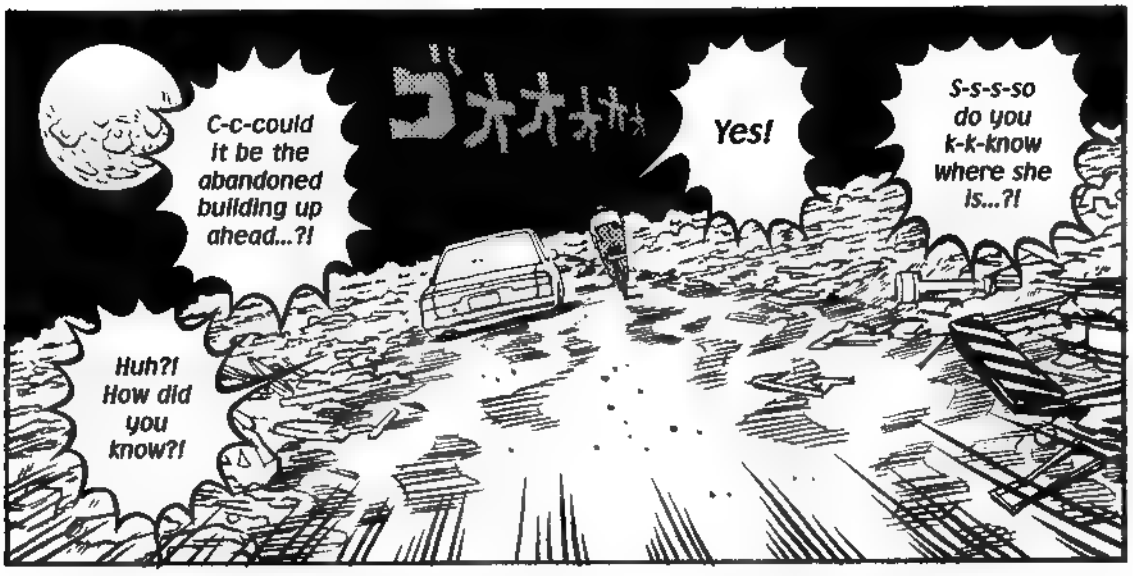

KREEEE
Over in this direction...
It's all empty lots. As far as the eye can see...
KREEEE
However, no matter how far you walk...
Tokita
KREEEE
CLATA
CLATA
KREE
Think, Onoda...
KREE
What lies beyond this point...?
KREEE
KREEE
Think...
KRE
KOCK
Ah!
[Ghost Building]


She's not moving at all.
How do you get a person to die...?
What should we do now...?

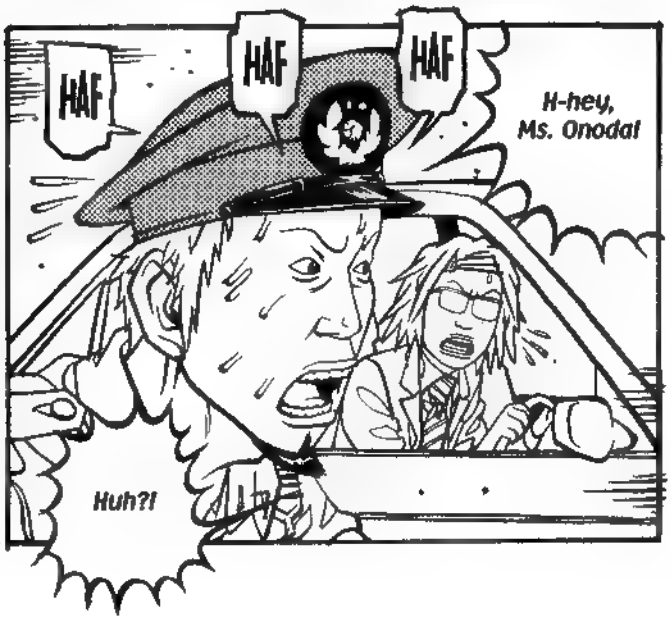

Yep yep, you're right, Ton-chan.
Uwaaah! Uwaaah!
Waaaa-aaaah!
Something where we can tell "Oh, she just died."
Let's keep it simple.
It's sad. Really sad.
...
ブ
オオオオオオ

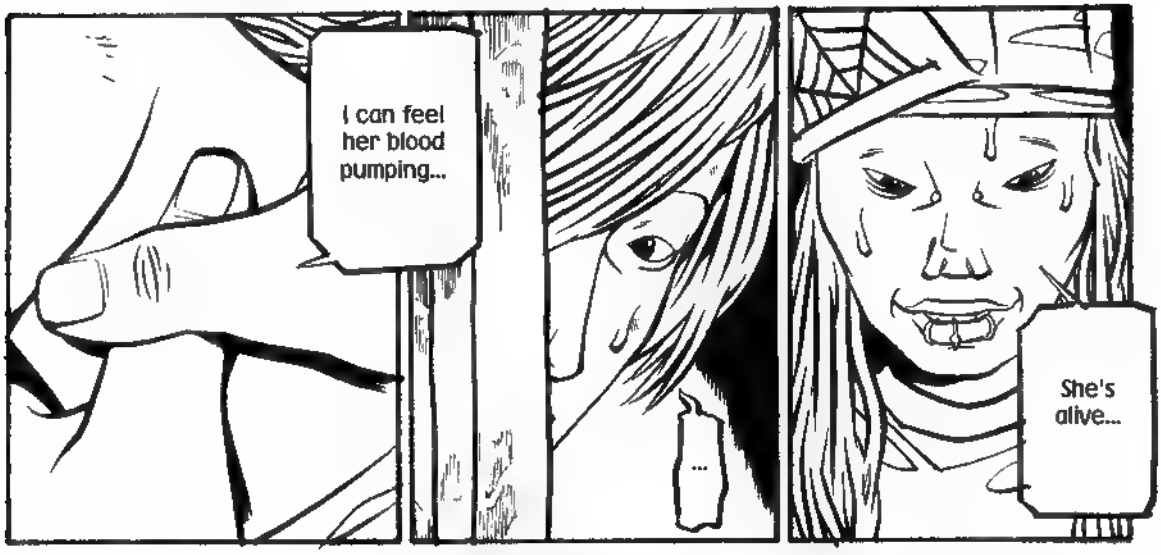
ゴオオオオ
TUNK
TUNK
ゴオオオオオ
?!
GA-SHUK
GA-SHUK
GA-SHUK
ゴオオオ
Oh! Ms. Onoda?!
O-O-O-Officer Katakuri?!

The girl...! Miss Kataoka has been kidnapped...!
Uhh, I just got a call from the hospital...!
Whaaat ?!


C-c-could it be the abandoned building up ahead...?!
ゴオオオ
Yes!
S-s-s-so do you k-k-know where she is...?!
Huh?! How did you know?!

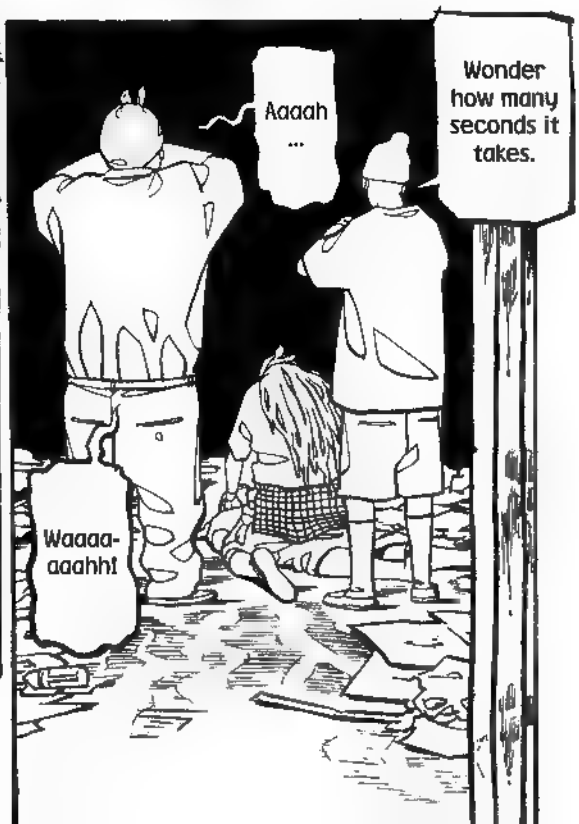
Oh! I-I-I'm terribly sorry!
Please gimme a ride!
ゴオオオ


HAF
HAF
HAF
H-hey, Ms. Onoda!
Huh?!


I can feel her blood pumping...
...
She's alive...

This is boring.

You're about to die right now.
Why don't you put up a fight?


Aaaah ...
Wonder how many seconds it takes.
Waaaa-aaahh!

I've still got the scar left...
That bitch...
Yeah, you get pretty worked up when they put up a fight, Mit-chan.
Like getting bitten and stuff.
!
Just lying out on the road like that...
Yeah... That girl was crazy.
...
She can't complain even if she gets kid-napped.
She was the one lying there like an idiot.
She was asking for it.
But we didn't do anything bad.

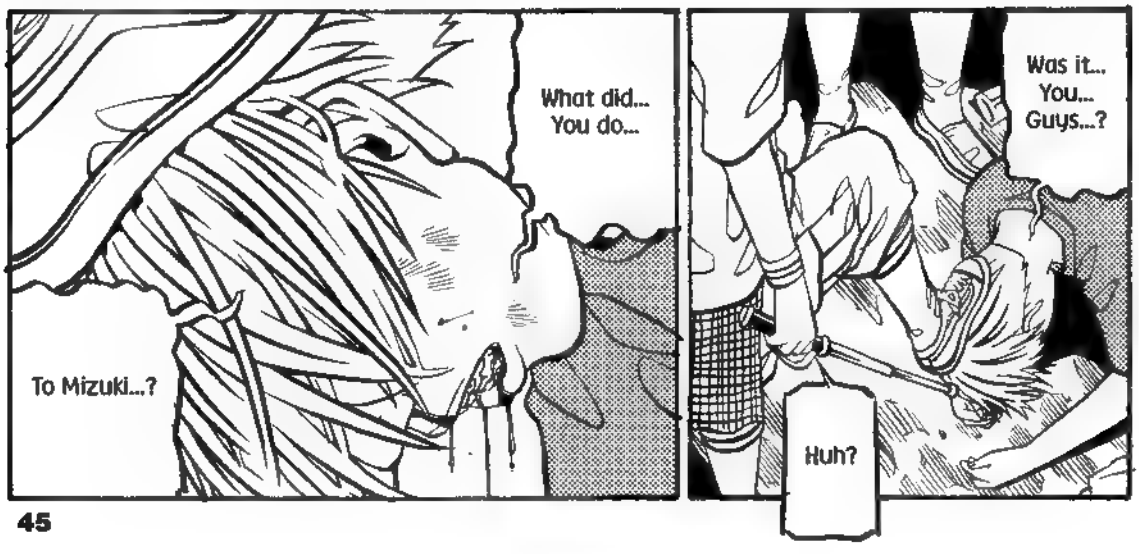
Ahh... Uhh... Aaahh...
Huh? Did you get a hard-on from remembering, Ton-chan?
She was a cute girl, wasn't she?
...
Uhh...
Uraaaa

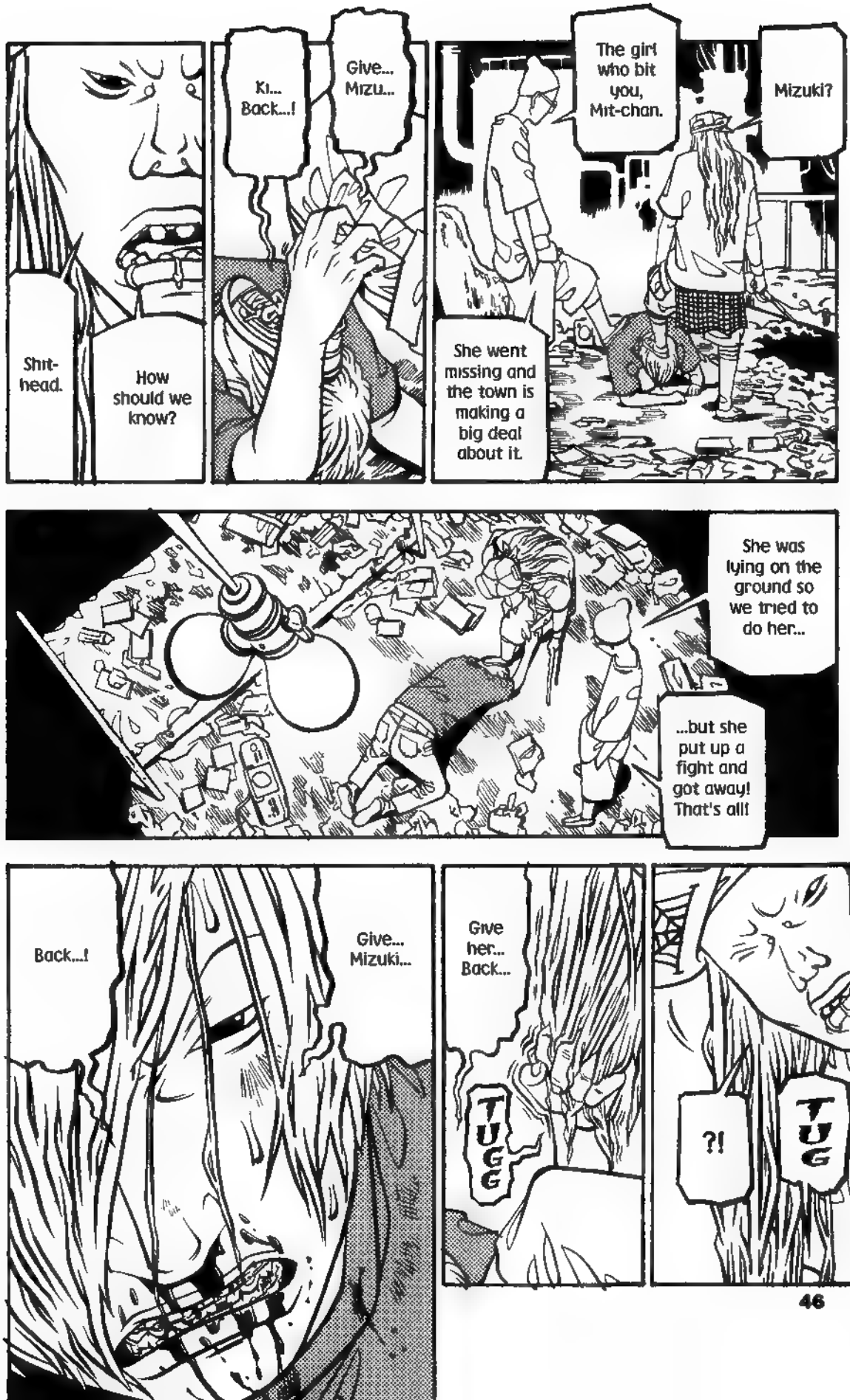
スレイヤ
Gwenn!
Gahh hhhh!!
WOOOH
Oh?
Oh?
AHHHAA
CRASH
CLATTA
THUK

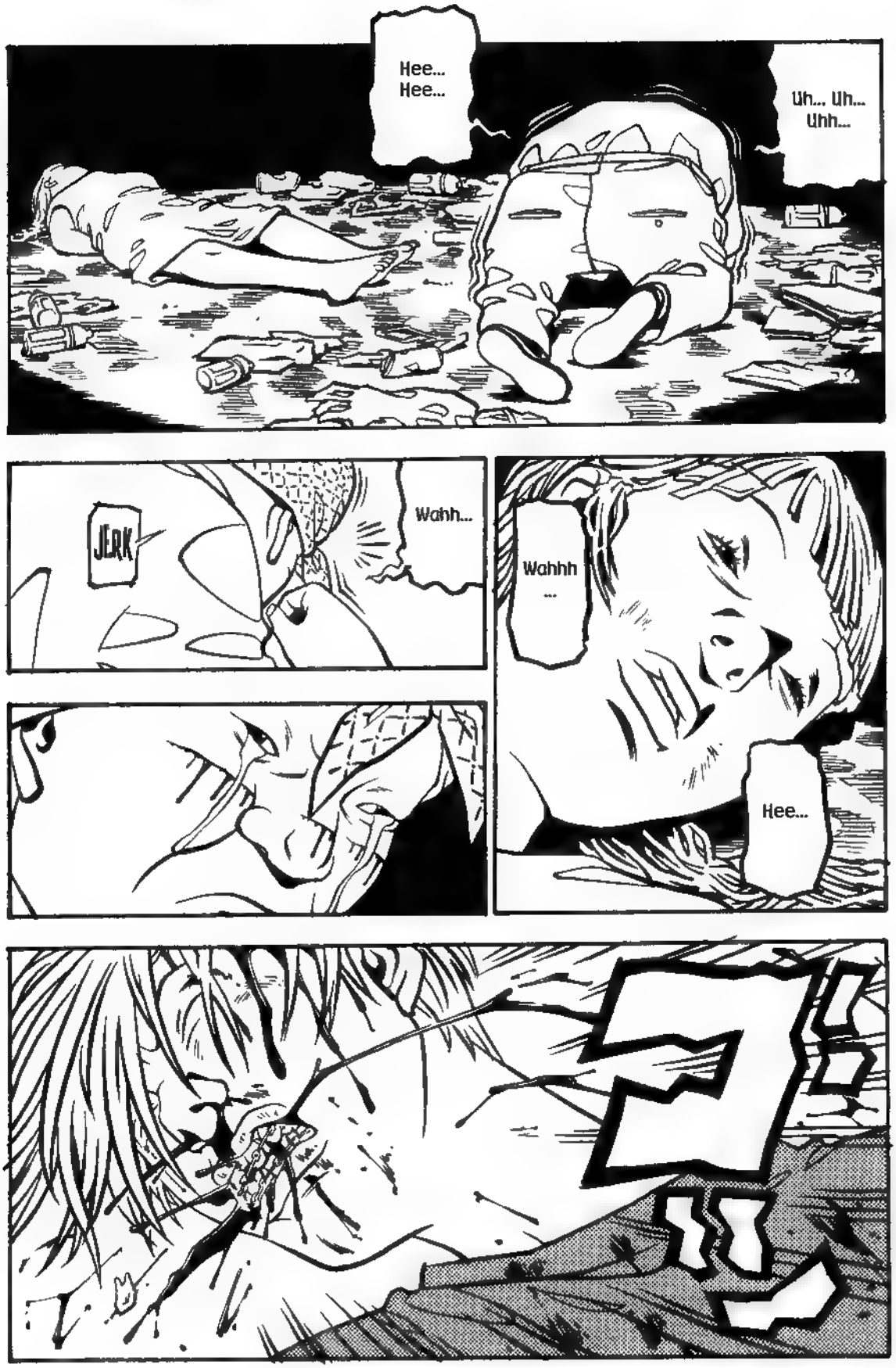
Who the hell is this?
Hm?
How'd you crawl in here?
Ack!
Oh? Oh? What's this place?
WHUMP
THUD
THUD
THUD

Wow.
Cough!
Cough!
You were here this whole time?

CLICK
Guess we don't have a choice then...
I feel sorry for you, but...
Cough!
Cough!
So you must know all about us, huh?

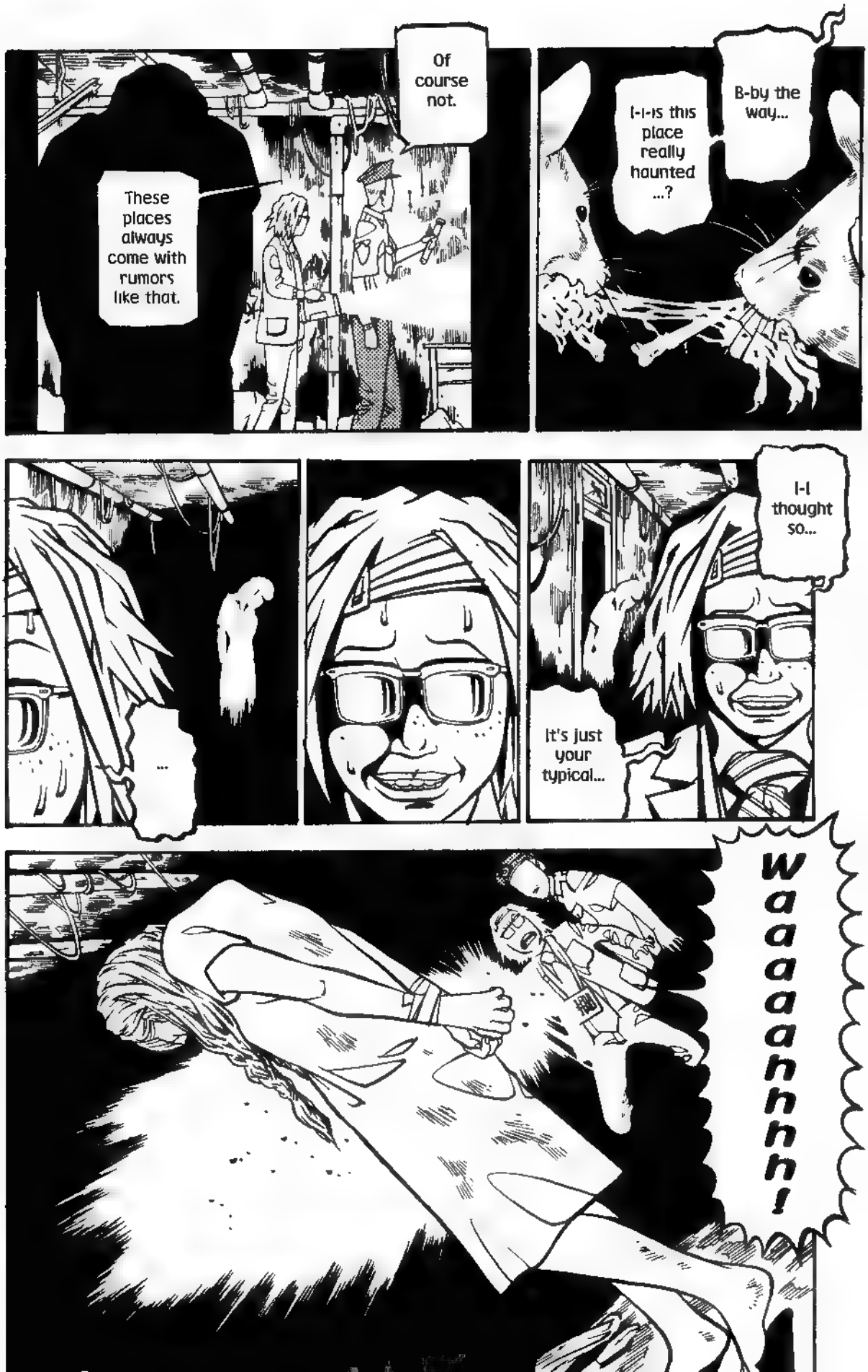

What did... You do...
To Mizuki...?
Was it... You... Guys...?
Huh?

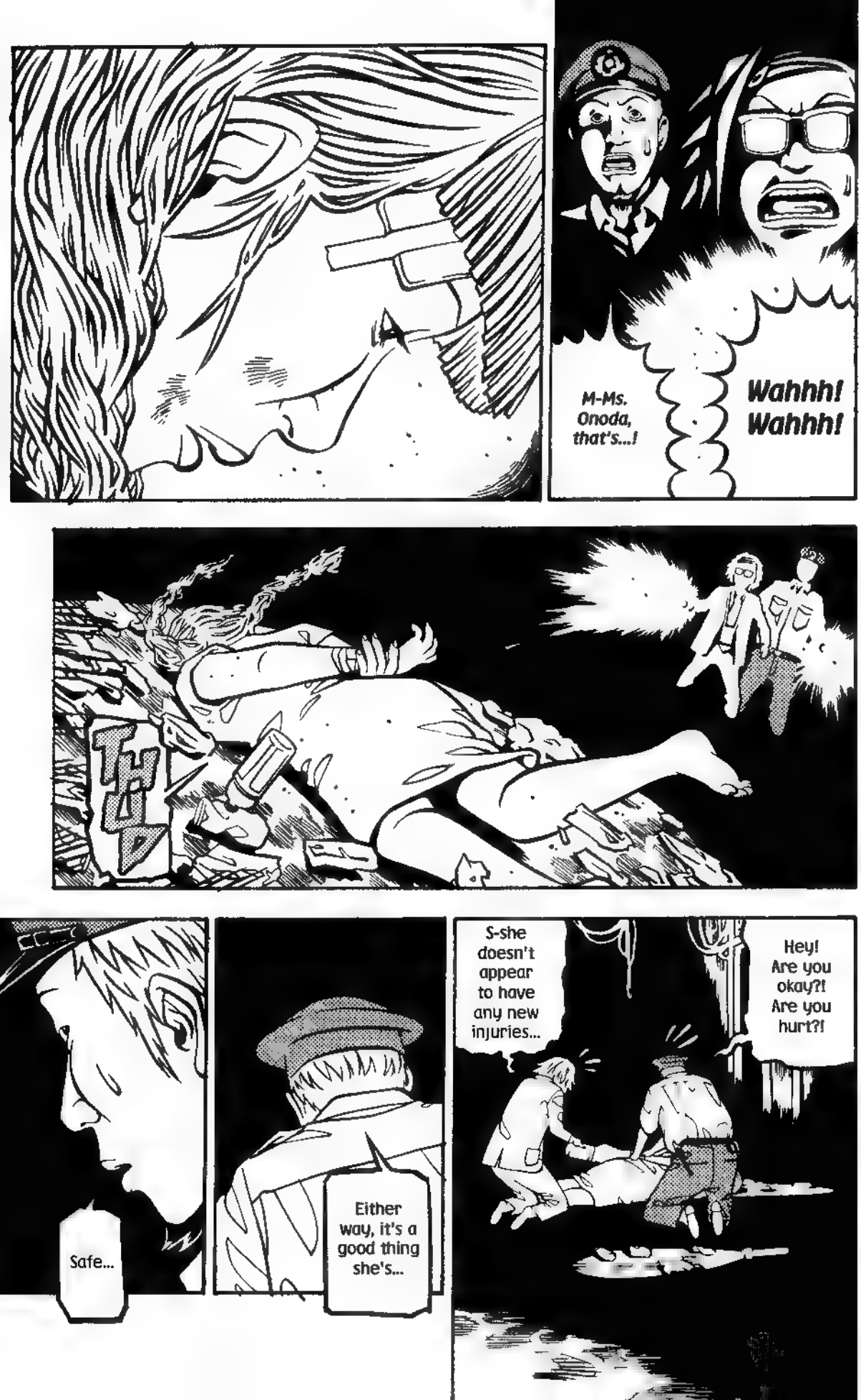

Shit-head.
How should we know?
Ki... Back...!
Give... Mizu...
The girl who bit you, Mit-chan.
Mizuki?
She went missing and the town is making a big deal about it.
She was lying on the ground so we tried to do her...
...but she put up a fight and got away! That's all!
Back...!
Give... Mizuki...
Give her... Back...
TUGG
?!
TUG


Hee...
Hee...
Uh... Uh...
Uhh...
JERK
Wahh...
Wahhh
...
Hee...

We didn't do anything bad!
It's not our fucking fault!
Shut the fuck up! We didn't even do anything to her!
...
Mizuki... Back...
Give...
Give her... Back...
STOP
I'm gonna fuck him up, damn it!
Shut up! I'm gonna fuck this bitch up!
Mi... Mit-chan ...?!
PULL

Man, I feel so pathetic...
FLASH
Maybe I'm not cut out to be a police officer...
...
I've been such a fool this whole time...
But is that really how a human being should behave...?
Perhaps detectives are meant to be that way...
RST!
RST!
Especially when I'm watching Sergeant Yokoi...
I-I feel the same way sometimes...


These places always come with rumors like that.
Of course not.
B-by the way...
I-I-Is this place really haunted ...?
...
I-I thought so...
It's just your typical...
Waaaahhhh!

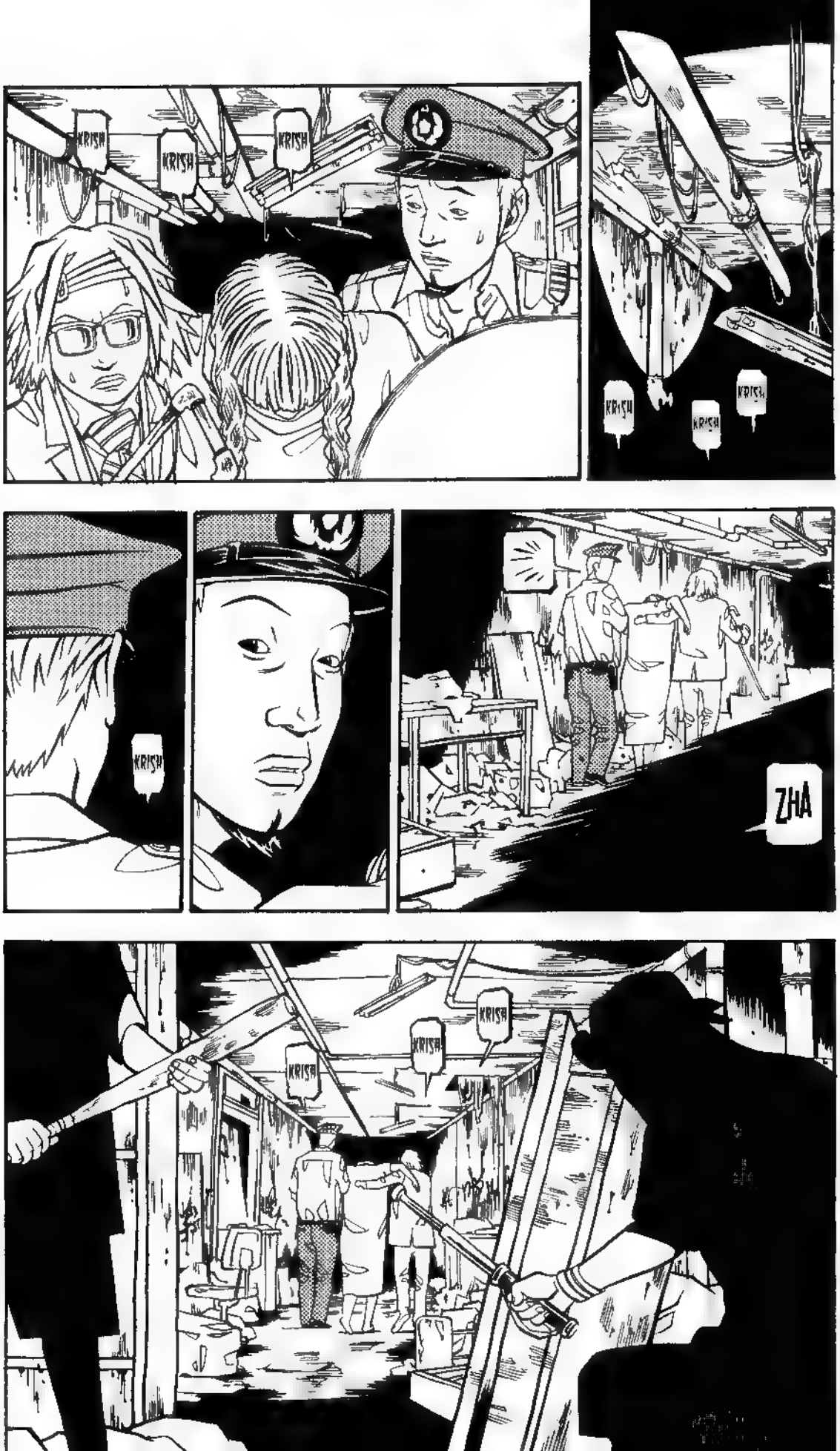

M-Ms. Onoda, that's...!
Wahhh! Wahhh!
THUD
Safe...
Either way, it's a good thing she's...
S-she doesn't appear to have any new injuries...
Hey! Are you okay?! Are you hurt?!

Gwohhhhh!
!
CLUNK
Gahhhhh!
Whoahh!
Ngahhhhhh!

Hee-
yahhhh!
KNOCK
ガキン
スー

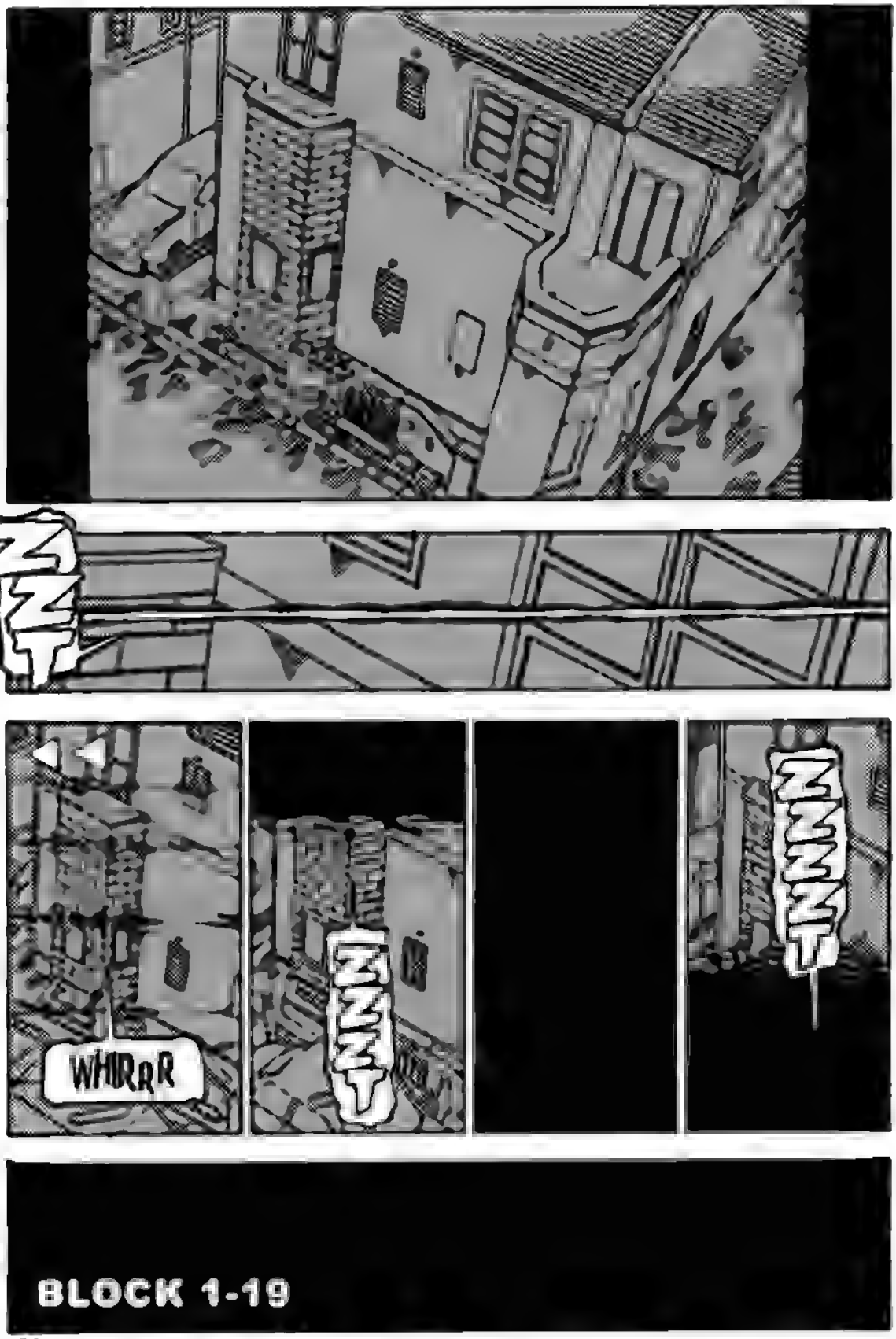
Sports...? What was that...?
I've been taking sports sword-fighting classes back at the station!
KCHAK
KCHAK
Th-thanks a lot, Ms. Onoda...
We should get this girl over to the car first...
What about the other two...?

GRIP
?!
Shit... Someone ratted on us...
We should get outta here, Mit-chan...
...
Do it or else you're dead.
H-hold on a sec, Mit-chan...
You're just a bit worked up right now, so...
...
...is dead!
And after that, the bitch that ratted on us...

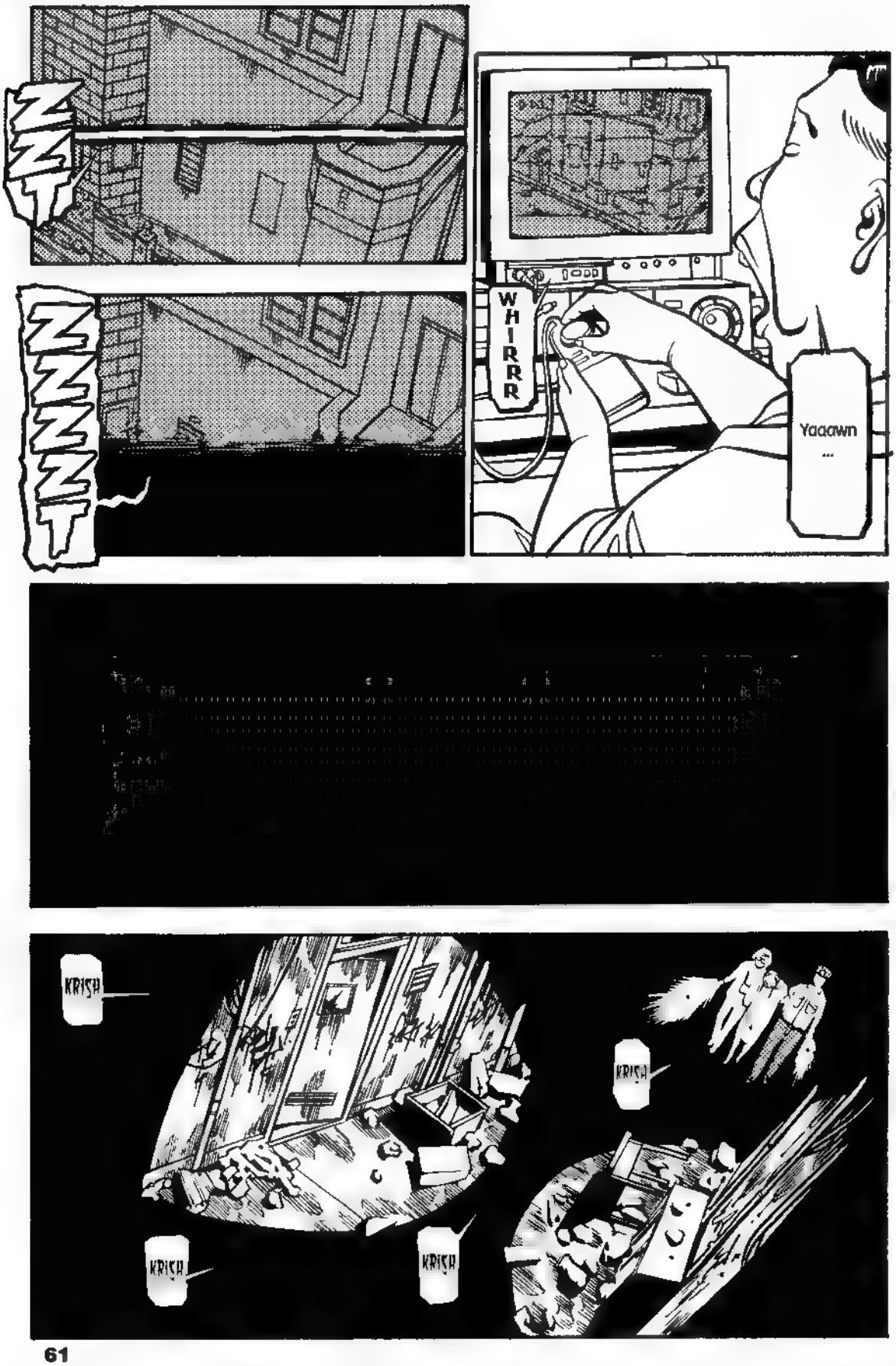

KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
ZHA
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH

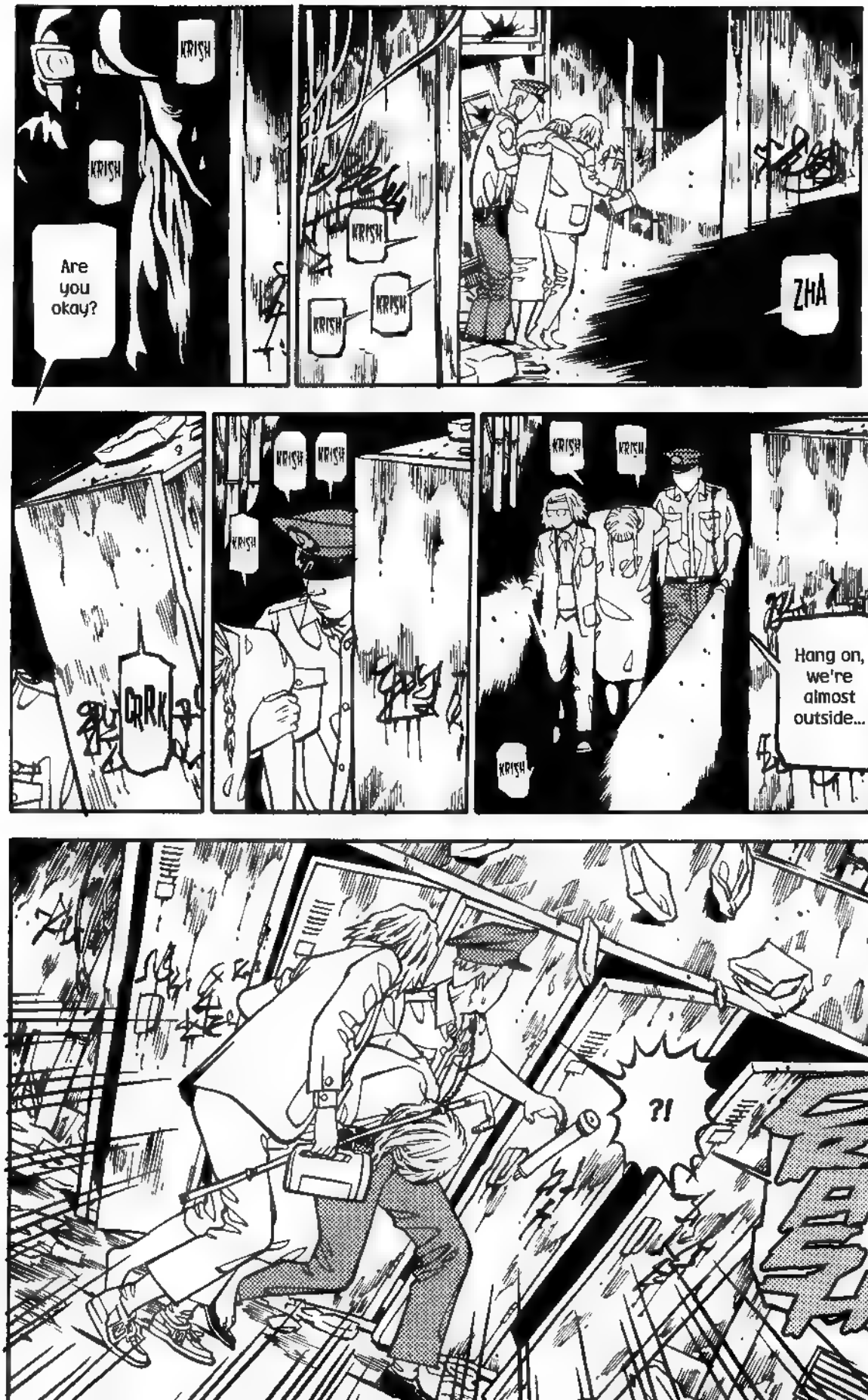
SOIL
Block 1-18 [End]

SOIL
Block 1-19 [The White Shadow]

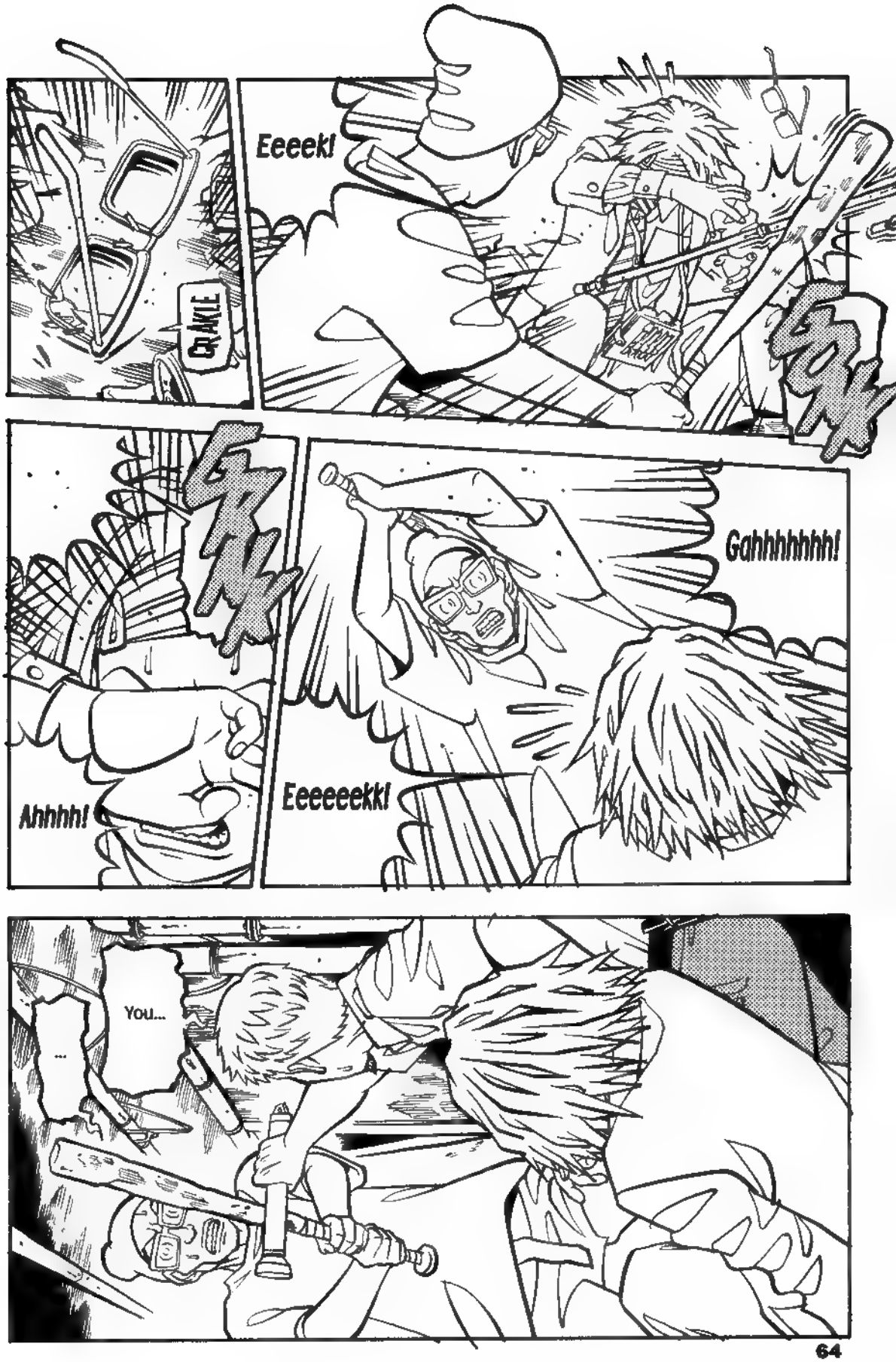

ZZT
WHIRRR
ZZZZT
ZZZZT
BLOCK 1-19

I'm just gonna sleep once I get home anyway.
Yeah.
You were still here, Mr. Yokoi?
Huh?
ZZZT
Just killing some time.
You're watching the video from the blackout again?
That's real dedication.
Alright, good night sir.
Yeah.
Never heard of it.
Hey Tamura, you know where that thing went?
The voyeur video of the women's bath they found earlier.
Yaaawn ...
It's all the same, no matter how many times I watch it.

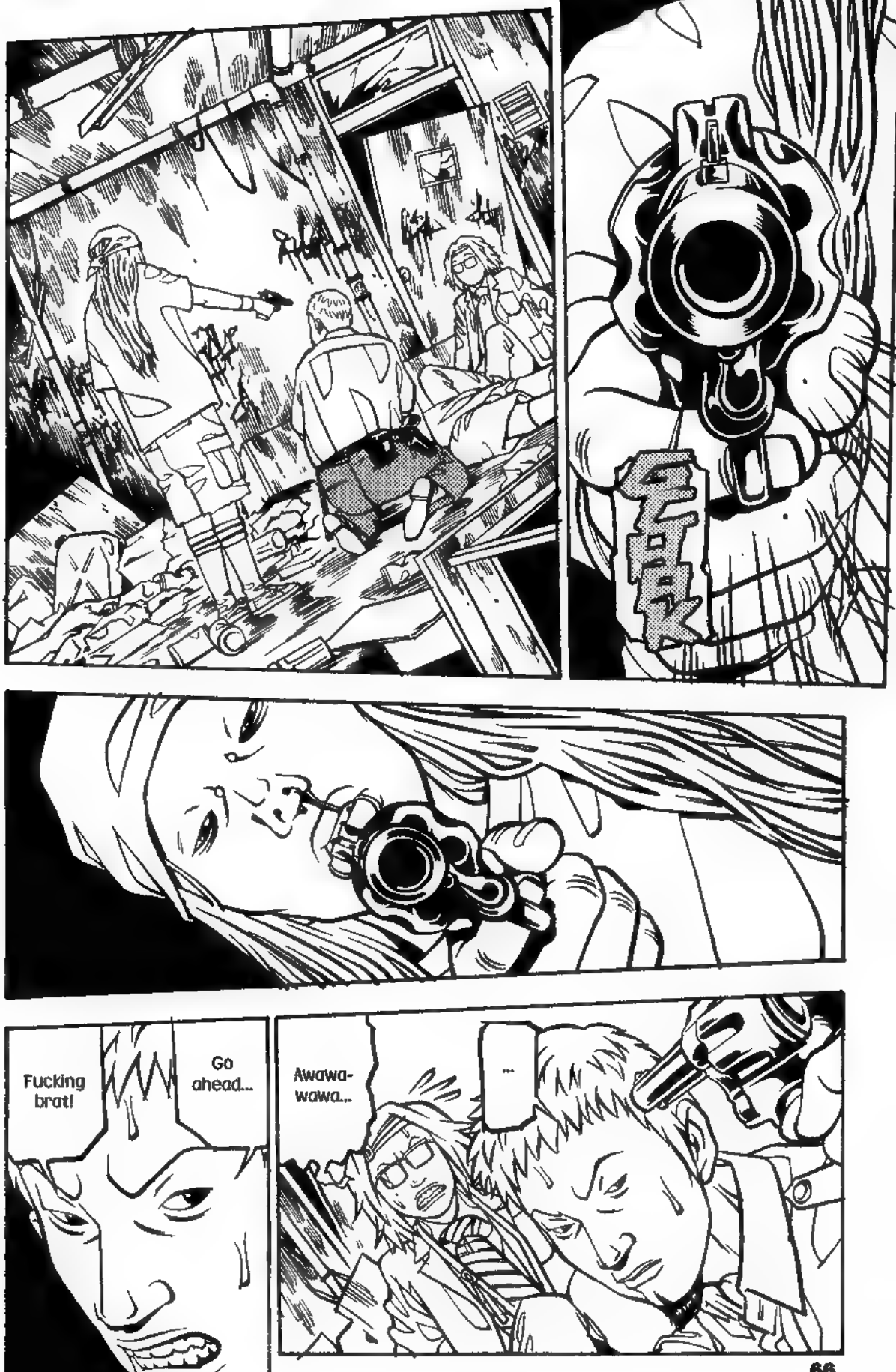

ZZT
ZZZZT
WHIRRR
Yaaawn
...
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH


KRISH
KRISH
Are you okay?
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
ZHA
CRRK
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
Hang on, we're almost outside...
?!

Ahyahhh!
!
CLUNK
ドカッ
You little...!
Awawawa-wawawa!

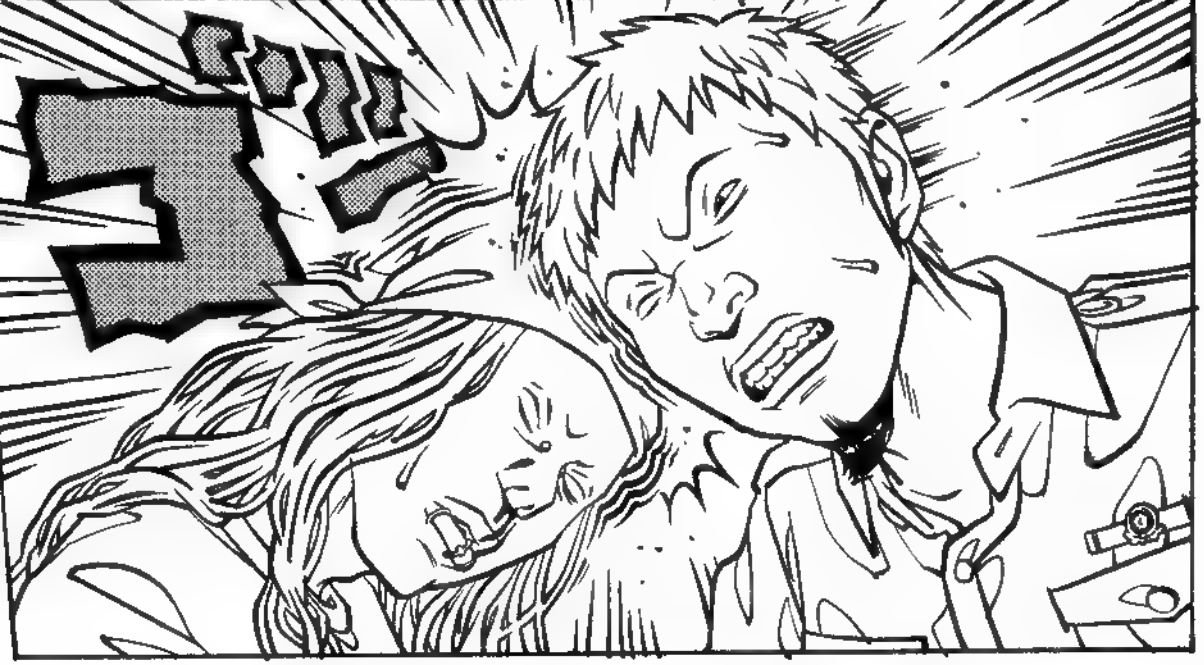

CRANKLE
Eeeek!
Gahhhhhhh!
Eeeeeekk!
Ahhhh!
You...
...

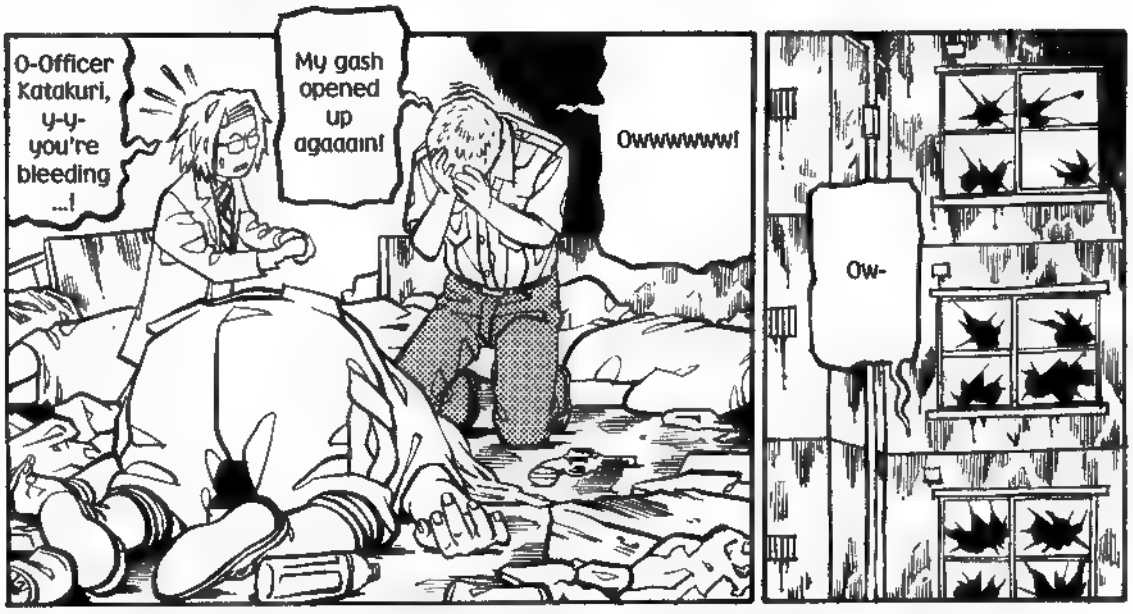
ドン!
ゲシ
Fucking brats!
Think you can make a fool of me?!
You think you got me punked?!
Huh?
O-O-O-Officer Katakuri...!
!!

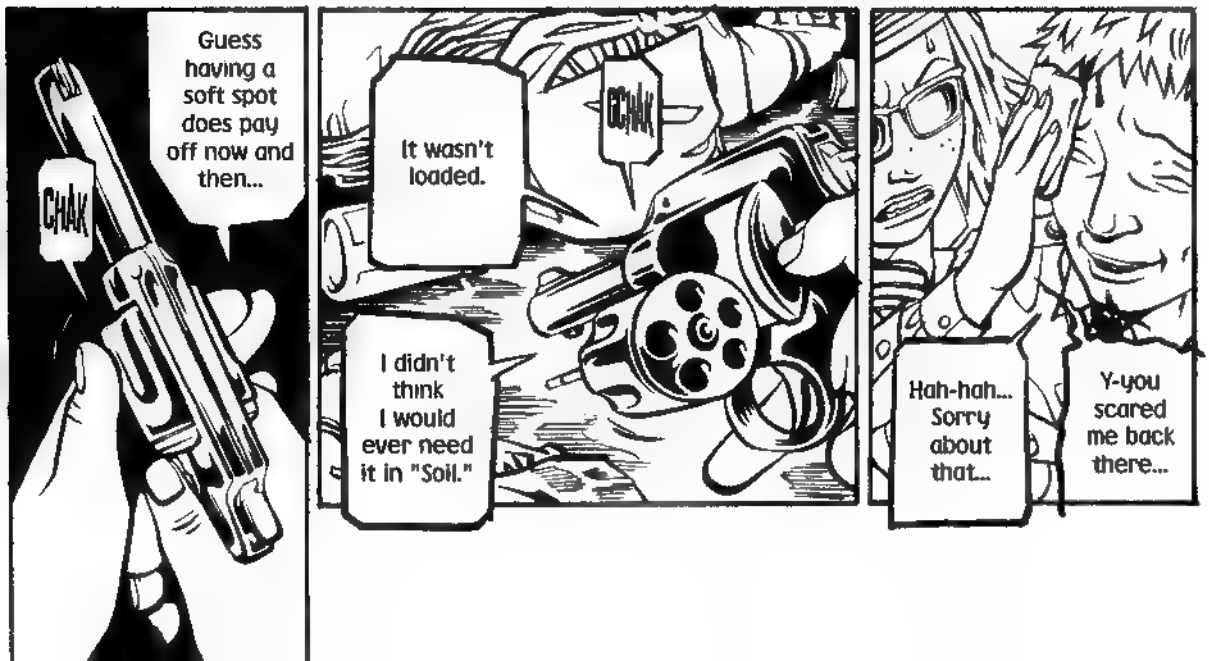

Fucking brat!
Go ahead...
Awawa-wawa...
...

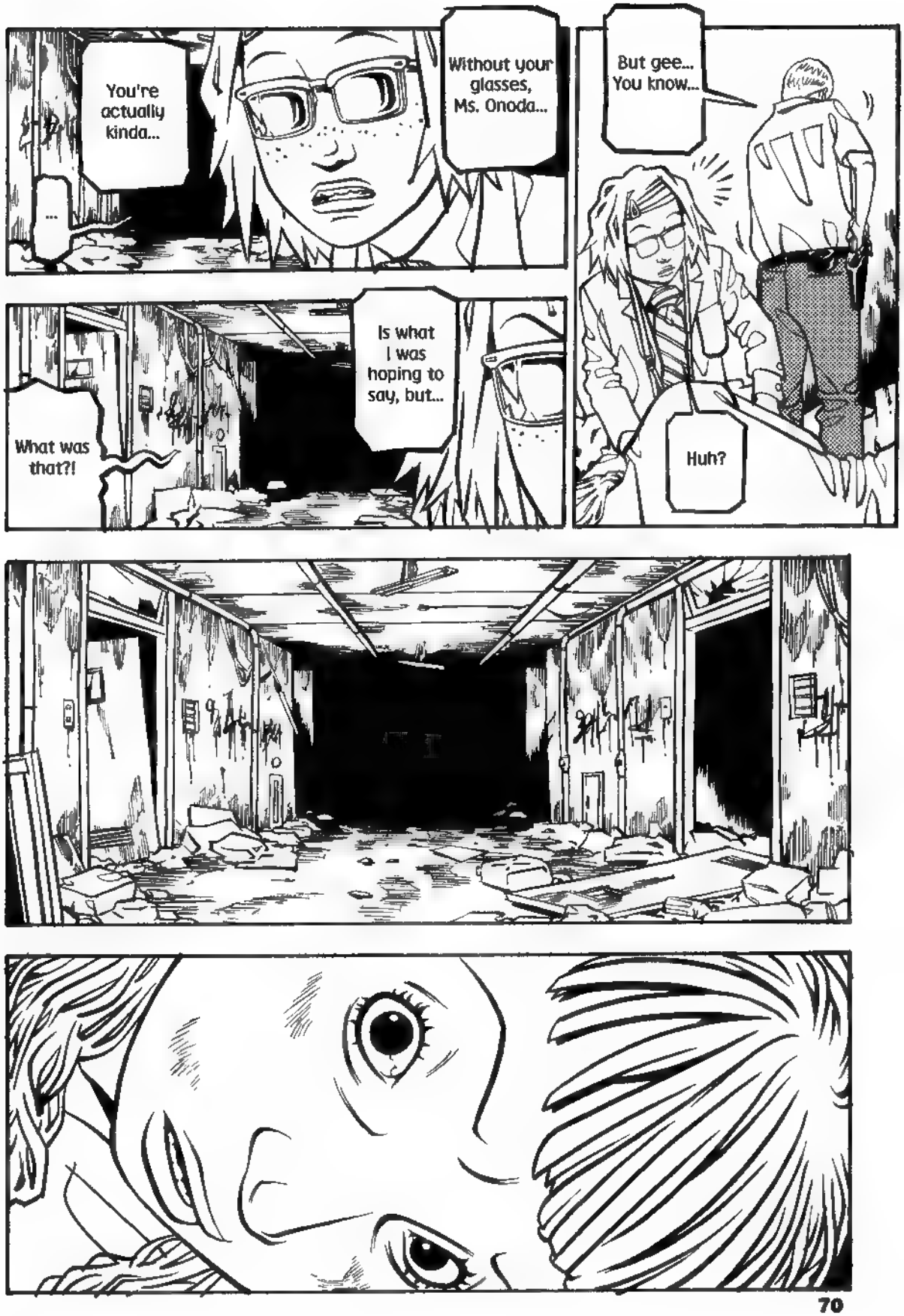
Shoot it, bitch!
I told you to fucking go ahead!
O-O-O-Officer Katakuri ...?!
Huh?!
You wanna shoot me?!
I'm gonna shoot.
CLICK
Then...
Okay...
Ahhhhhhh!

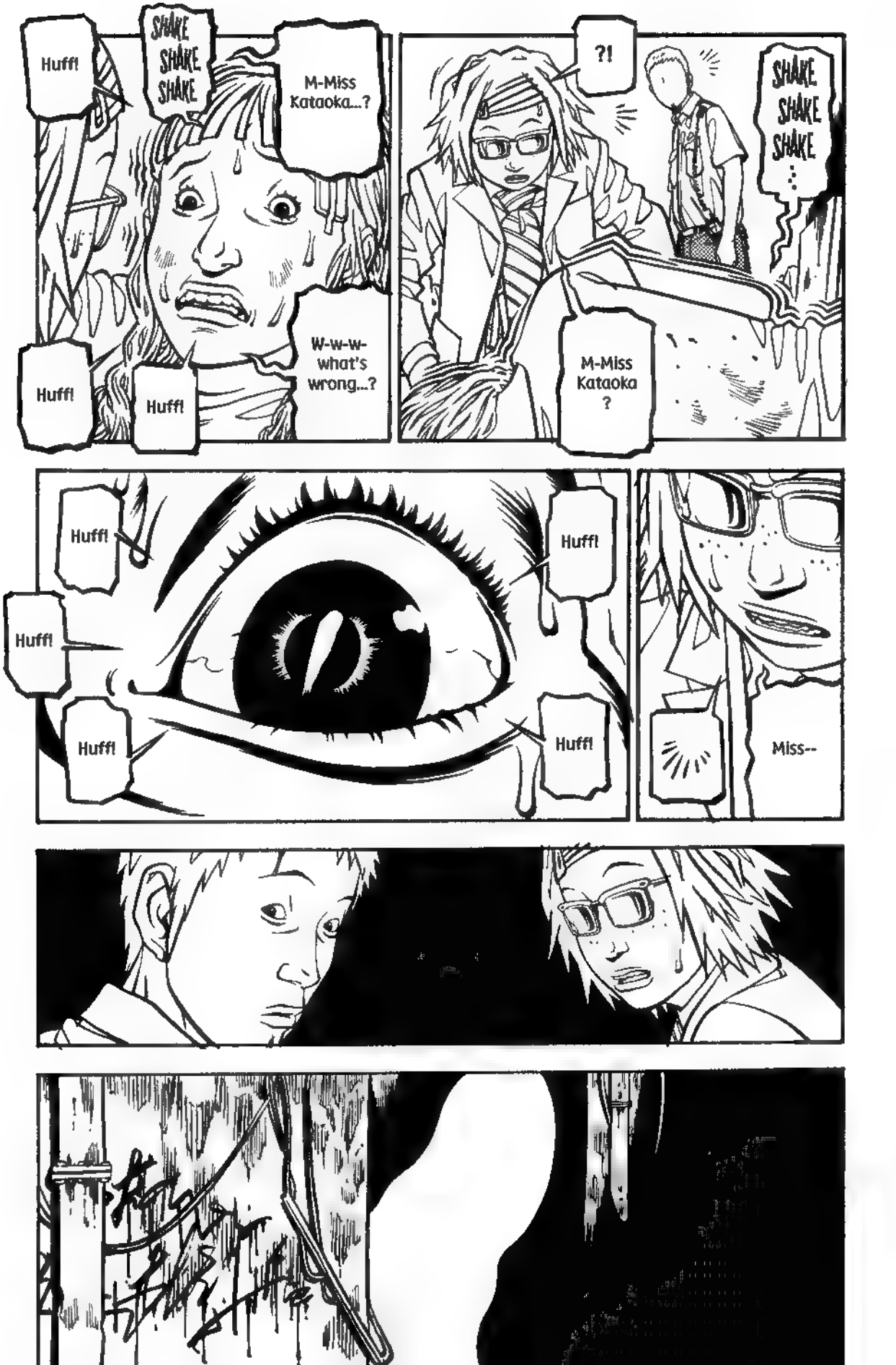
KA-CHIK
?
?
?
KA-CHIK
KA-CHIK
KA-CHIK
How's it feel to get punked?
Well?
!

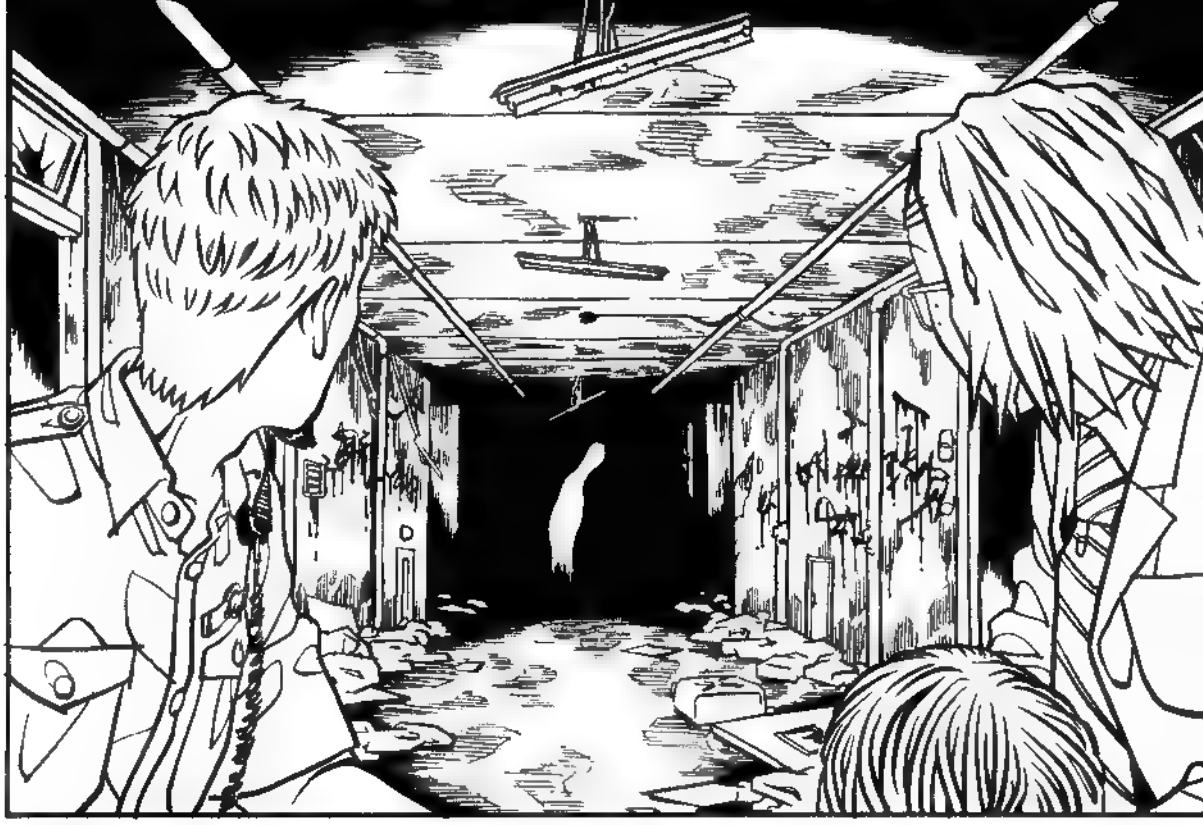



O-Officer Katakuri, y-y-you're bleeding...!
My gash opened up agaaain!
Owwwwww!
Ow-

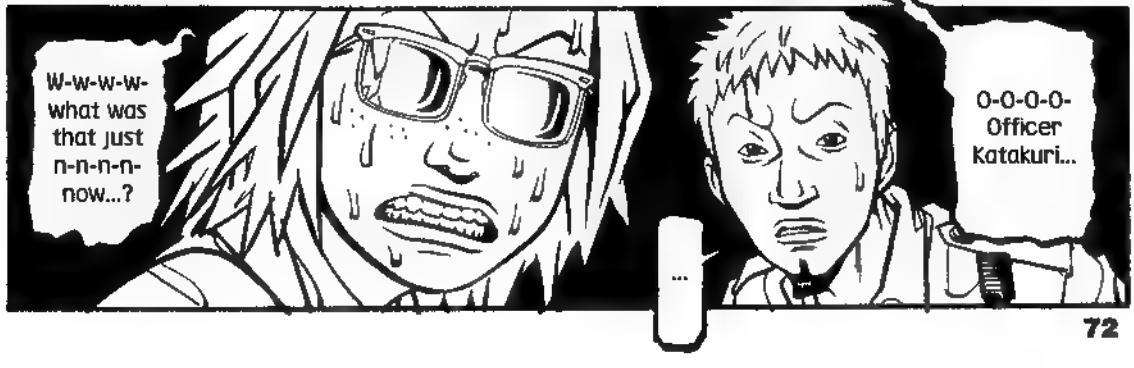

Guess having a soft spot does pay off now and then...
CHAK
It wasn't loaded.
I didn't think I would ever need it in "Soil."
Hah-hah... Sorry about that...
Y-you scared me back there...


You're actually kinda...
...
Without your glasses, Ms. Onoda...
But gee... You know...
Huh?
What was that?!
Is what I was hoping to say, but...

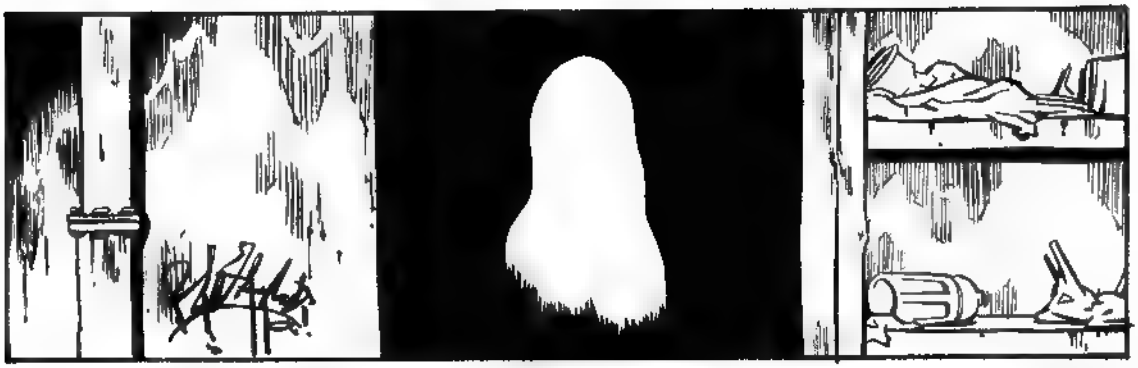

Huff!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
M-Miss Kataoka...?
Huff!
Huff!
W-w-w-what's wrong...?
?!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
M-Miss Kataoka ?
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Miss--

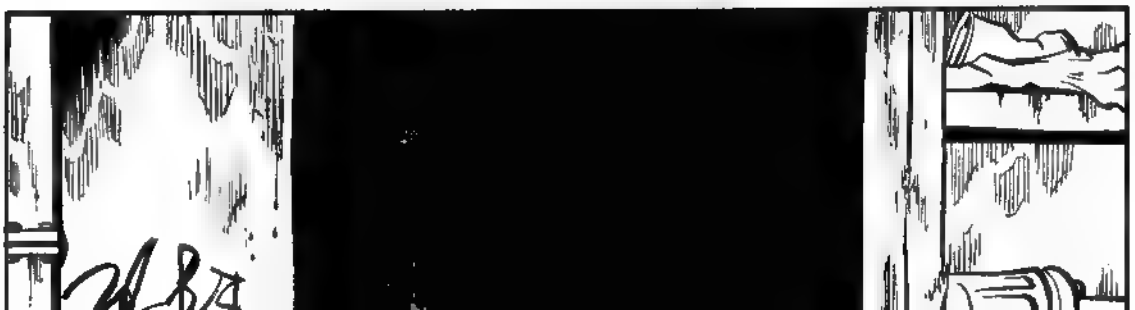


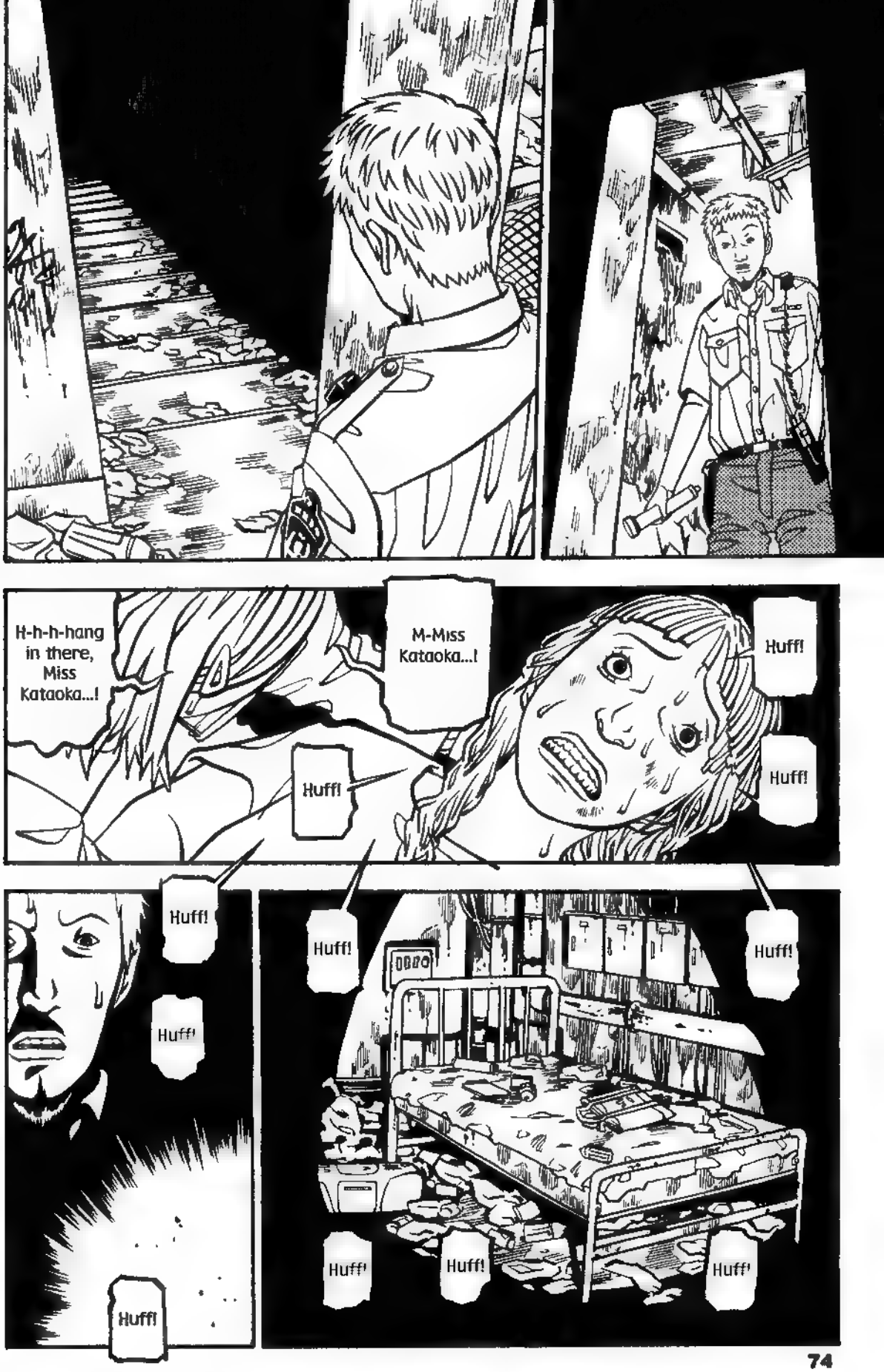
... O-

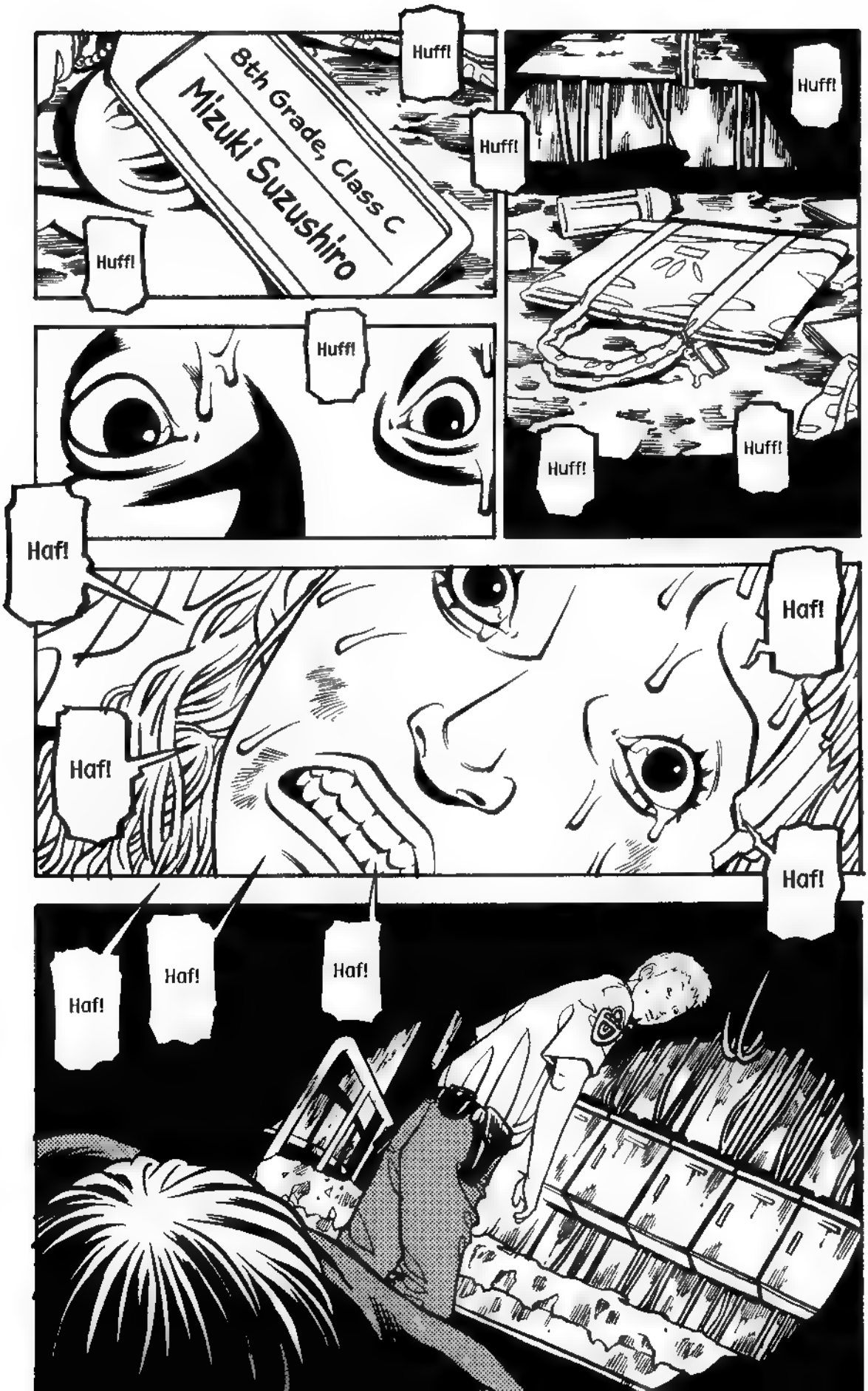

W-w-w-w-what was that just n-n-n-n-now...?
...
O-O-O-O-Officer Katakuri...

Y-y-y-you don't need to go and look...!
W-w-w-w-wait!
Please keep an eye on her, Ms. Onoda.



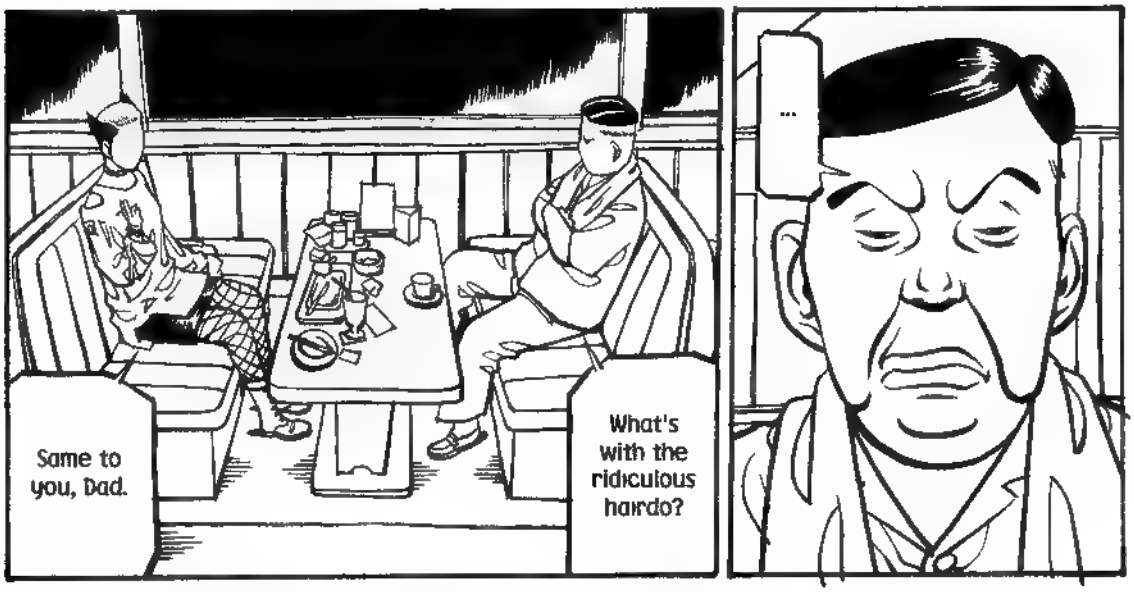



H-h-h-hang in there, Miss Kataoka...!
M-Miss Kataoka...!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!


8th Grade, Class C
Mizuki Suzushiro
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!
Haf!

Man, they gotta put it where people can actually see it.
So this is the video of the women's bath, huh.
Finally found it...
Hoooooo ...
Jerks trying to keep it all too themsel--
WHRRRR

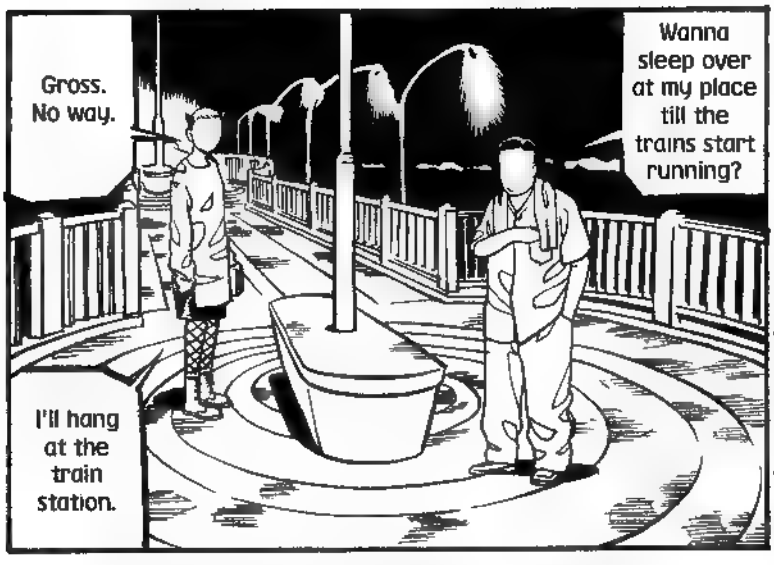
NNT
NNNNT
...
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
!
Tch...


Same to you, Dad.
What's with the ridiculous hairdo?
...

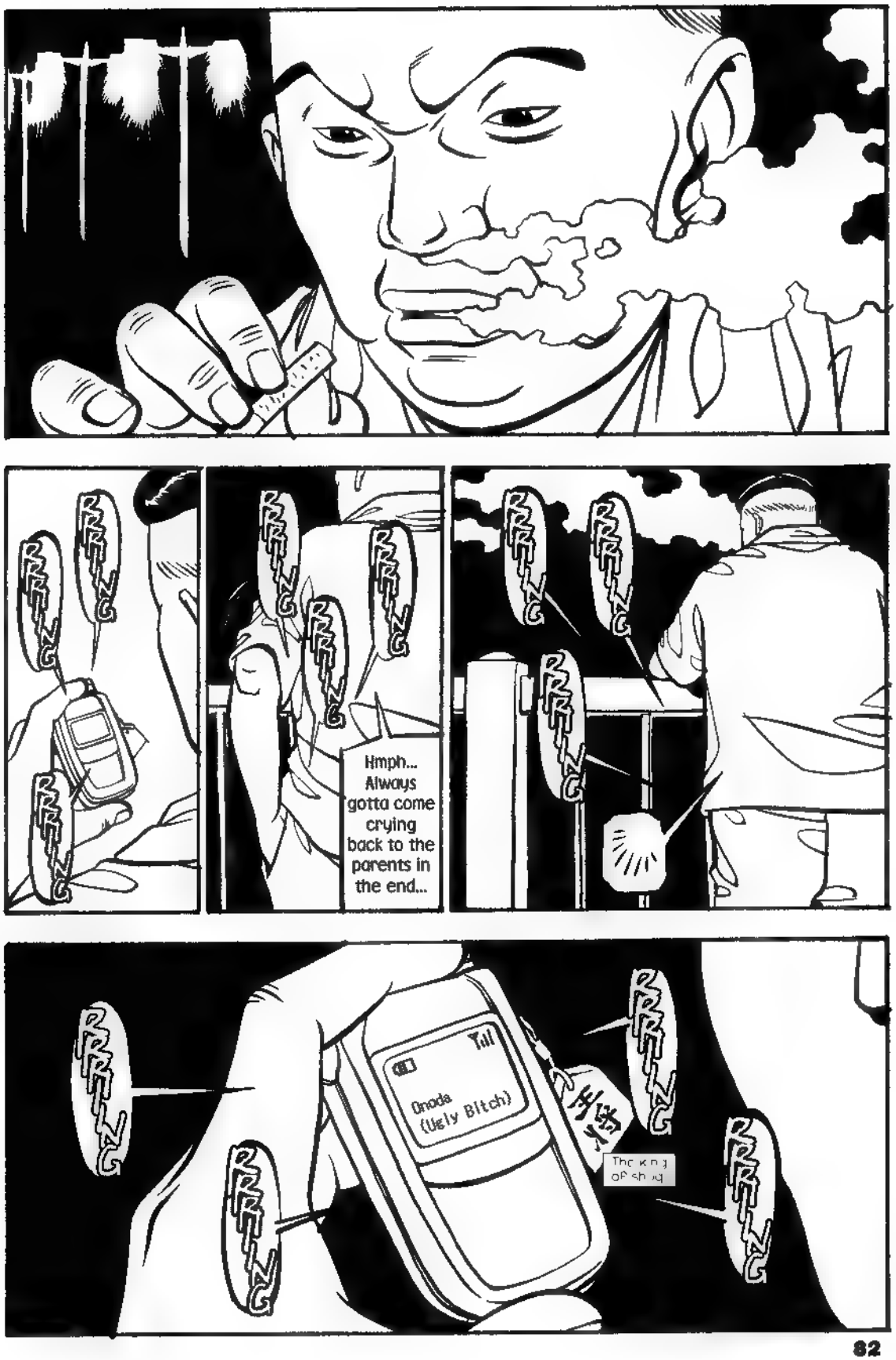
I got kinda lost from changing trains so much.
Denky's
What're you doing here this late at night?
Never been this far out in the country-side.
I'm 16.
Cigarettes? You're only 13.

What do you want?
Shut up.
Anything even happen round here?
You're doing cop work in this shitty-ass town, Dad?
Cheap-skate.
What the fuck...
Tell her I'm gonna deposit it.
Liar.
You're planning on using it up all by yourself, aren't you?
Mom told me to come get the child support money.
Well, at least you didn't get fired for pulling that stunt.
Your face is getting all scruffy, Dad.
You were tighter back when you were busting mobsters over in Akasaka.

It's pretty awkward, so we're thinking about moving someplace else...
...
You're kind of a taboo subject around the neighborhood.


Gross. No way.
Wanna sleep over at my place till the trains start running?
I'll hang at the train station.

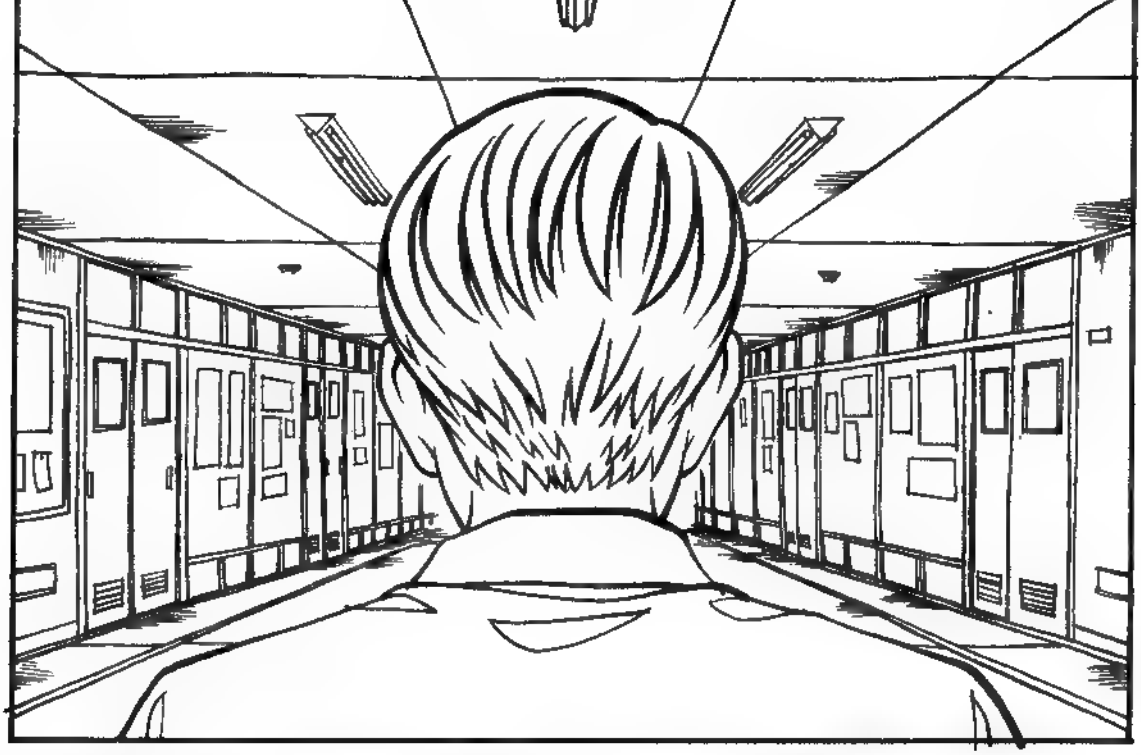
Hah.
FUCK


RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Hmph... Always gotta come crying back to the parents in the end...
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Onada (Ugly Bitch)
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING

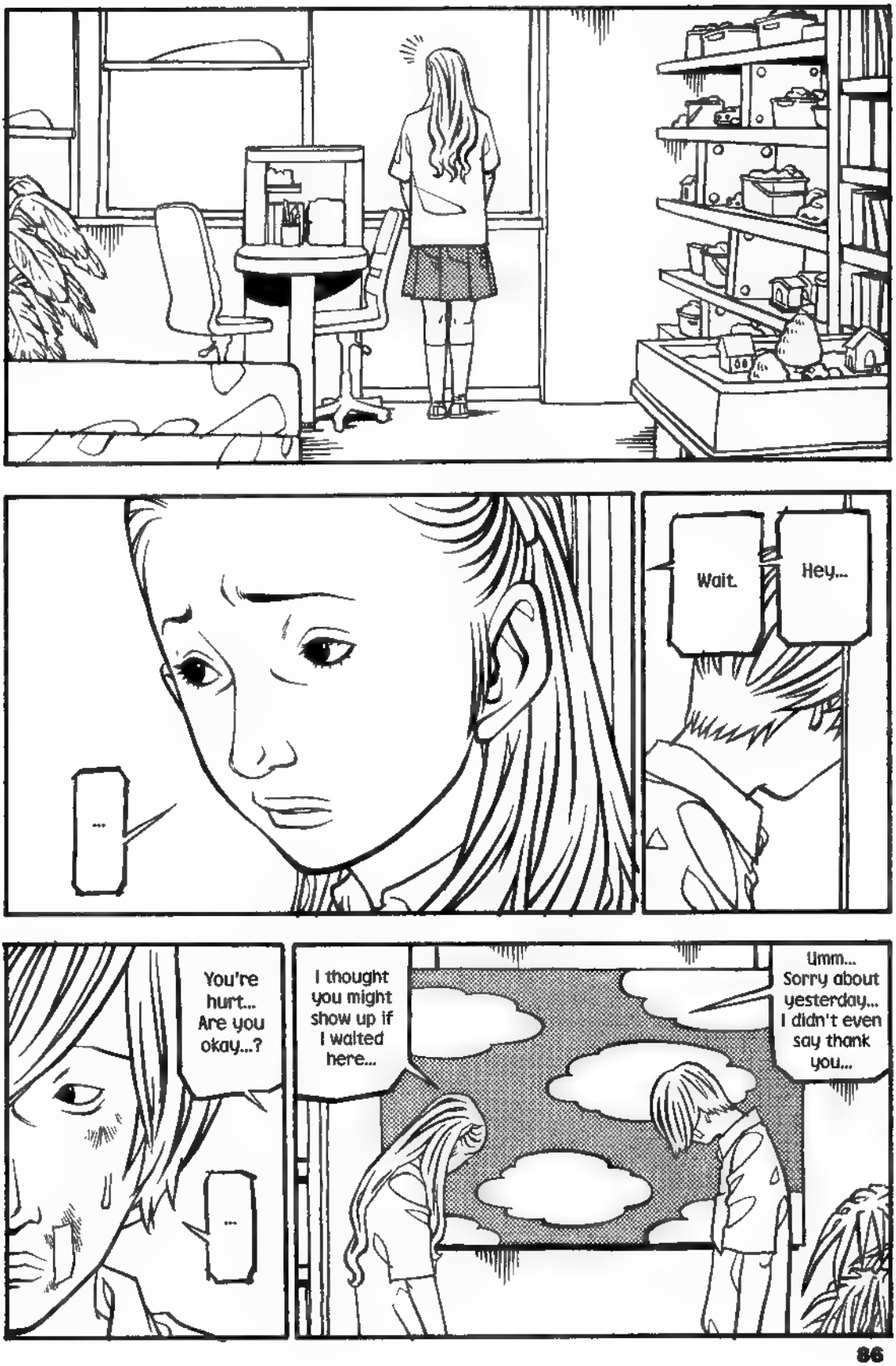
SOIL
Block 1-19 [End]

SOIL

Block 1-20 [Together]

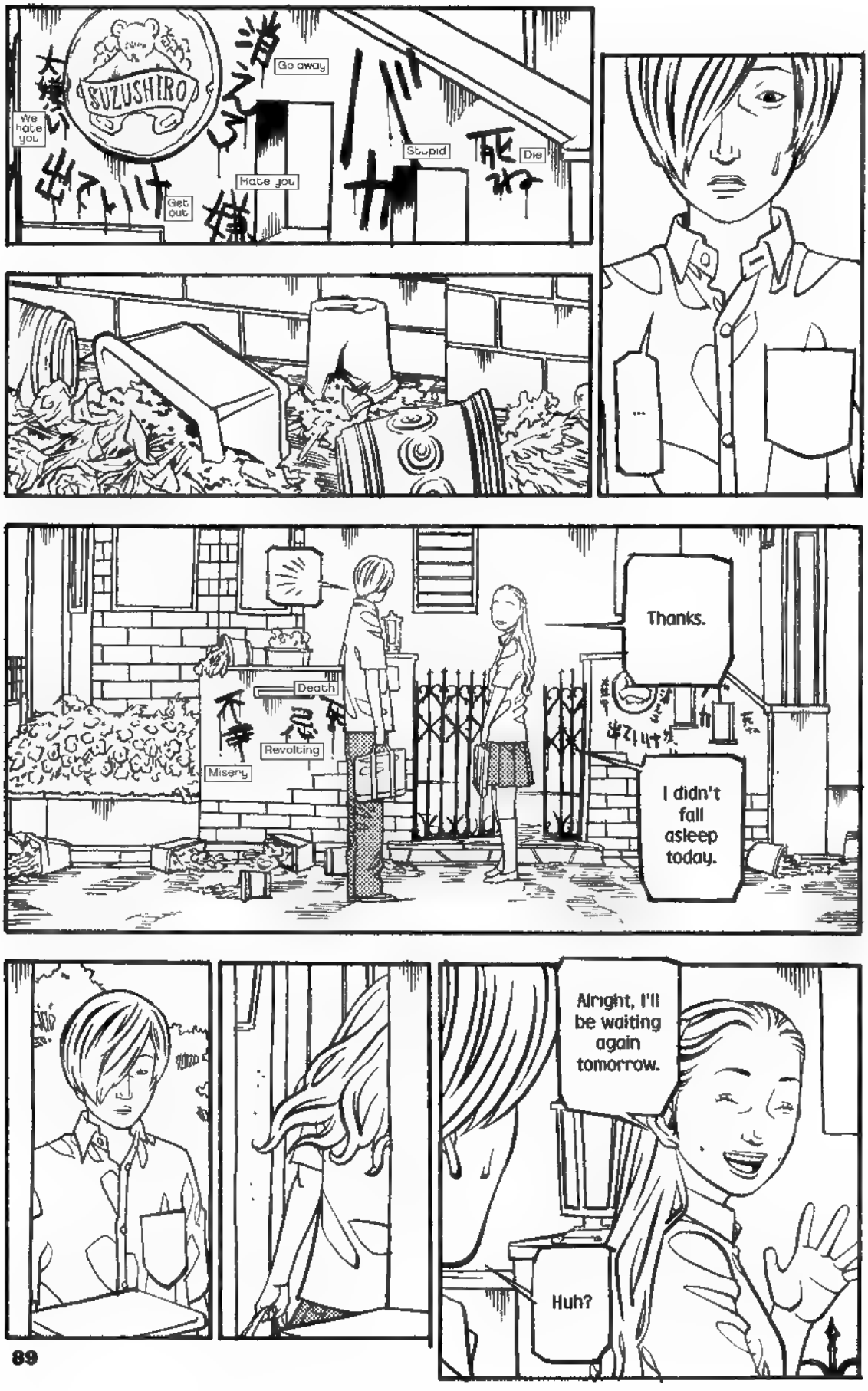


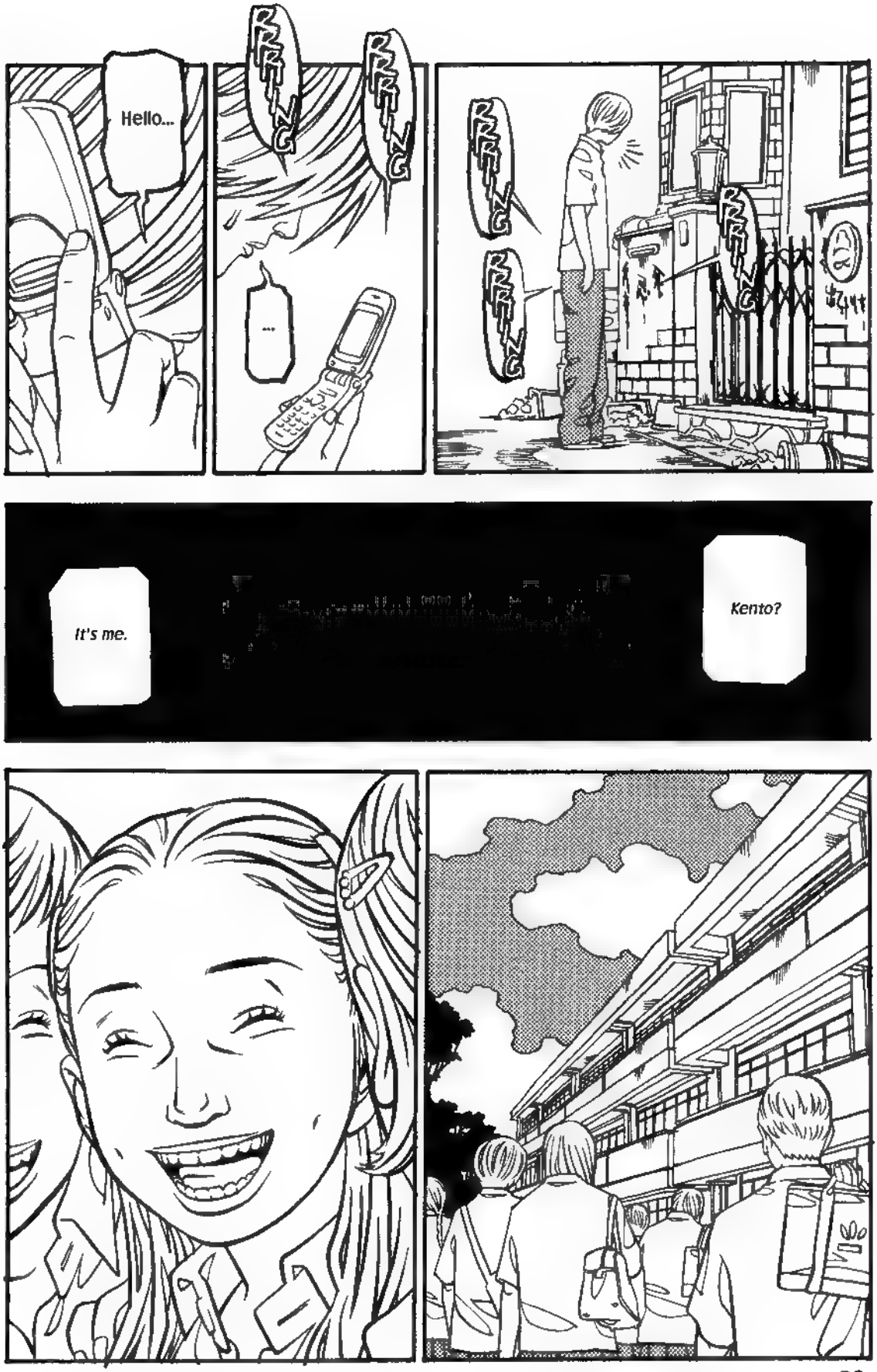
BLOCK 1-20


...
Wait.
Hey...
You're hurt... Are you okay...?
...
I thought you might show up if I waited here...
Umm... Sorry about yesterday... I didn't even say thank you...

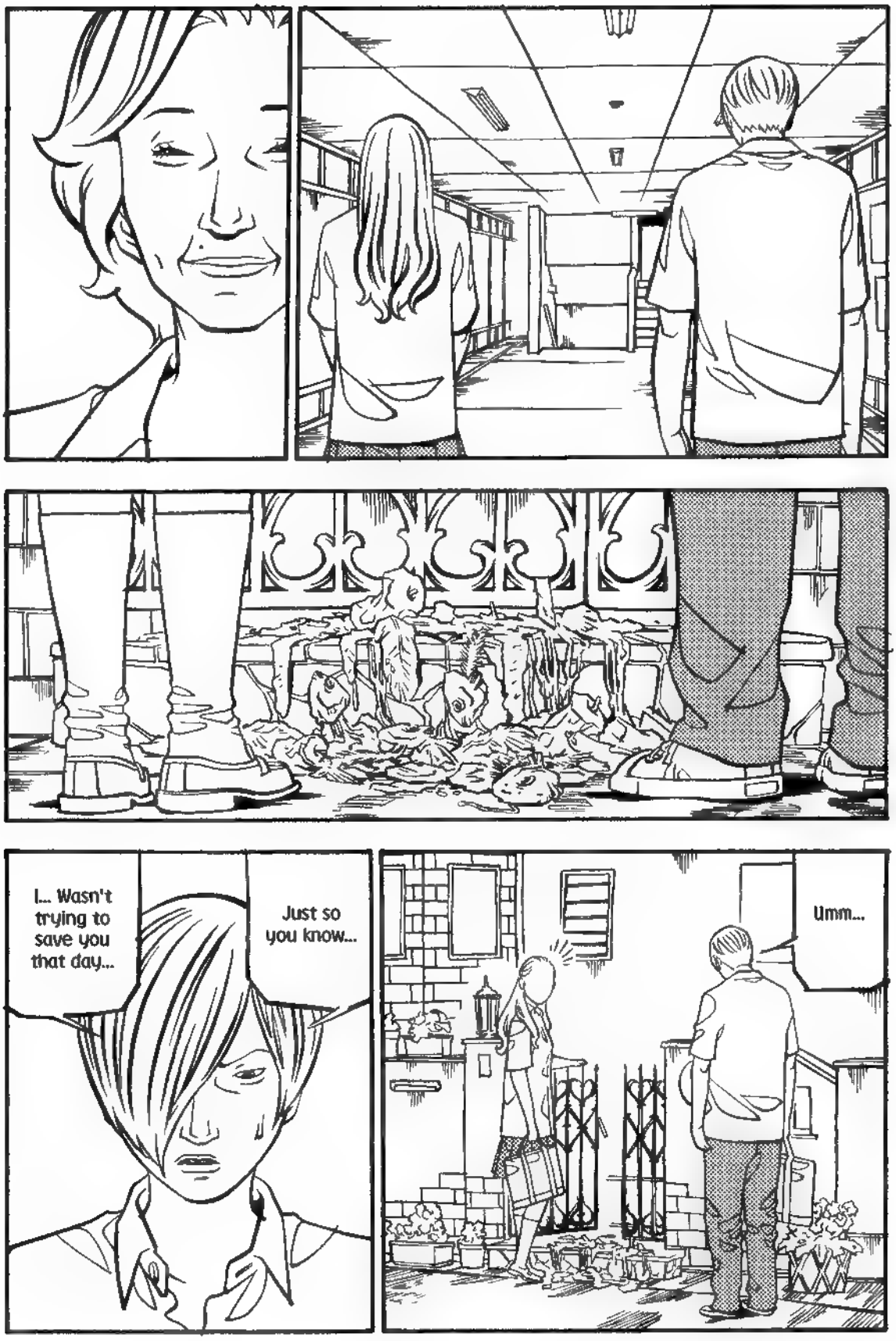
That sort of thing... Happens pretty often, and...
I'm actually really scared...
Can you walk home with me...?
[Together]

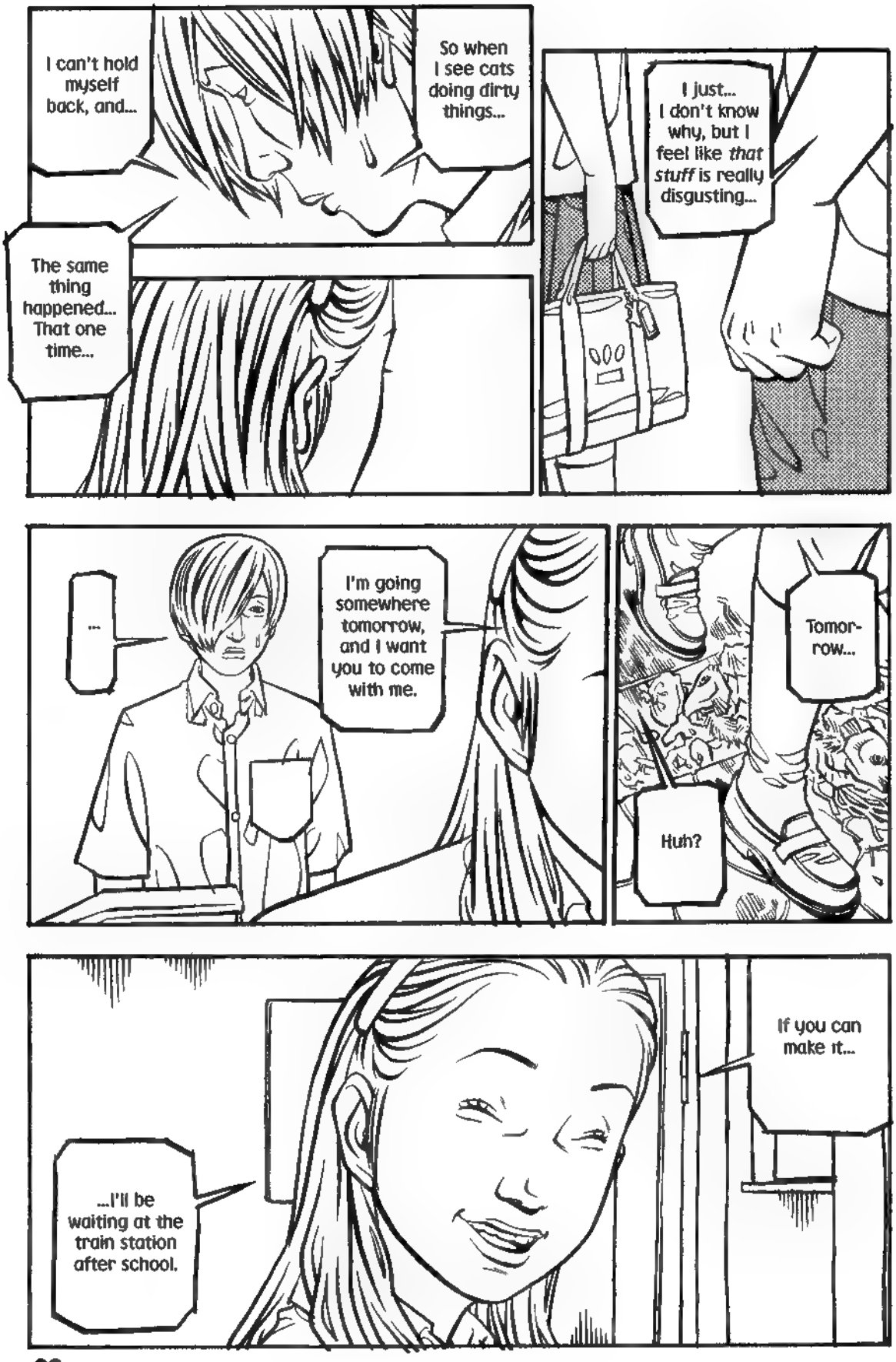
FLAP FLAP

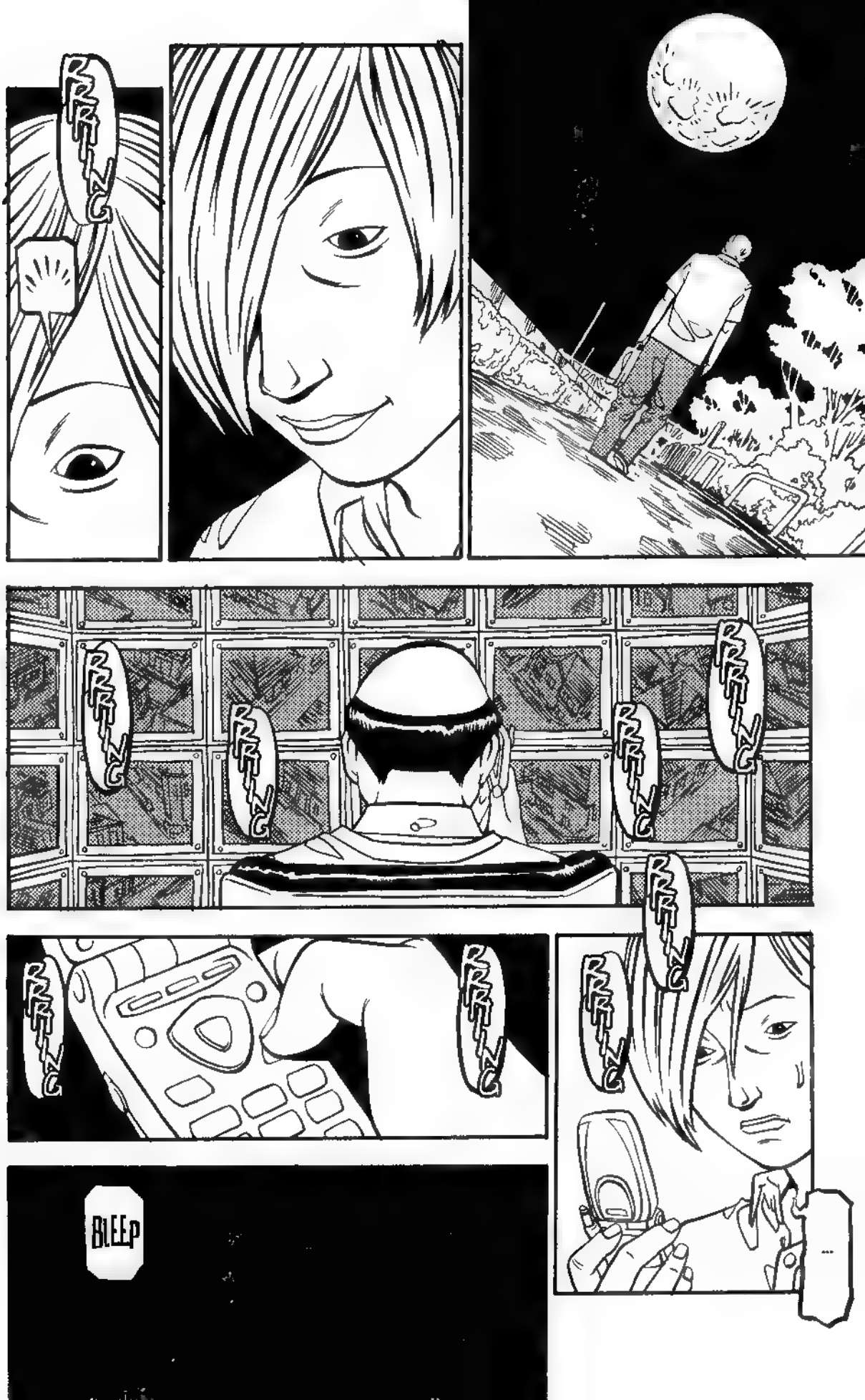

SUZUSHIRO
We hate you
Go away
Stupid
Die
Hate you
Get out
...
Thanks.
Death
Revolting
Misery
I didn't fall asleep today.
Alright, I'll be waiting again tomorrow.
Huh?


Hello...
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
It's me.
Kento?

I saw it.
Did you hear about Mizuki's place?
Yeah.
...
I feel sorry for her.
Poor Mizuki...
Yeah.
...
Yeah.
Dunno...
Who did it?
What was that? Why?

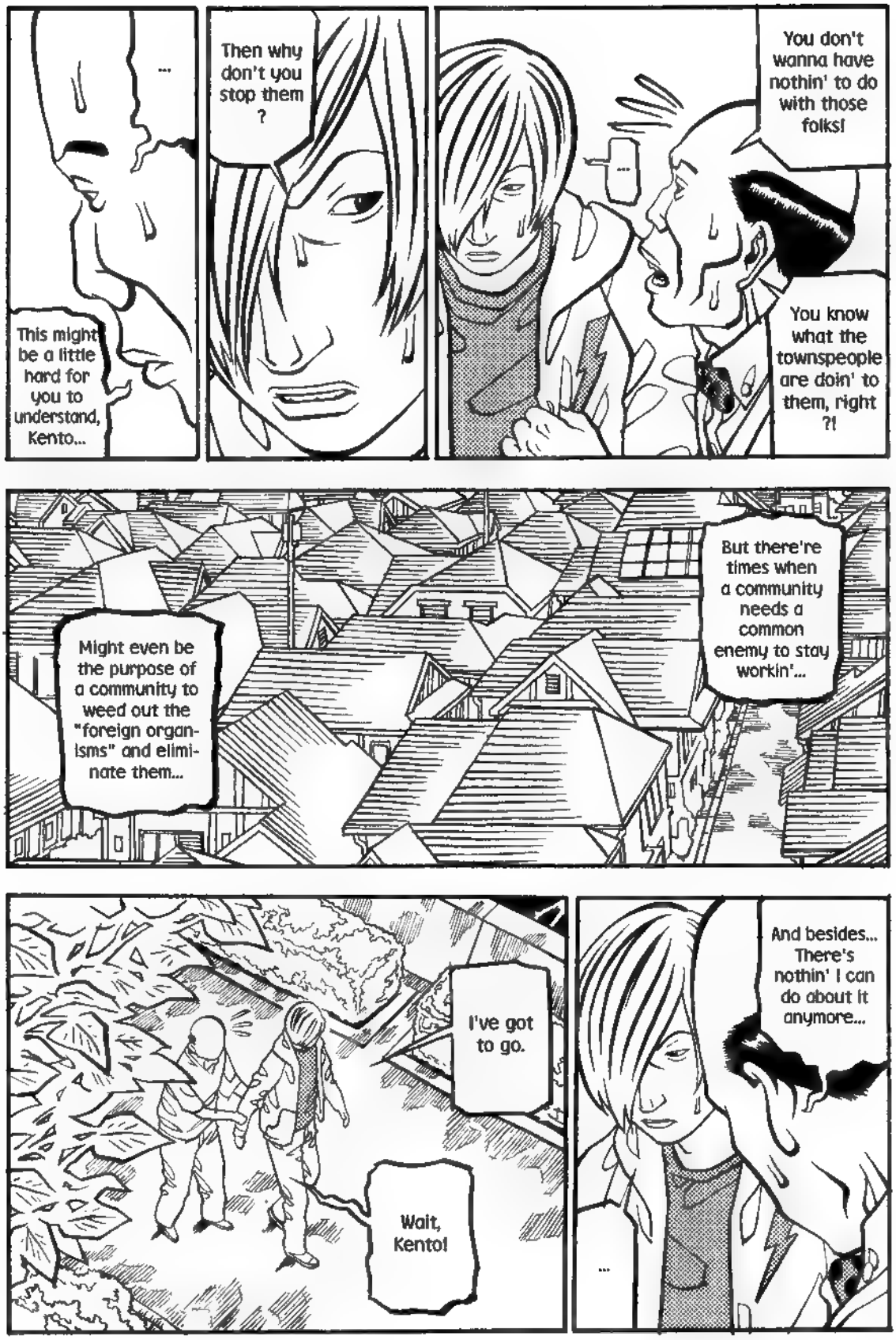

I... Wasn't trying to save you that day...
Just so you know...
Umm...


I can't hold myself back, and...
So when I see cats doing dirty things...
The same thing happened... That one time...
I just... I don't know why, but I feel like *that stuff* is really disgusting...
...
I'm going somewhere tomorrow, and I want you to come with me.
Tomor-row...
Huh?
...I'll be waiting at the train station after school.
If you can make it...

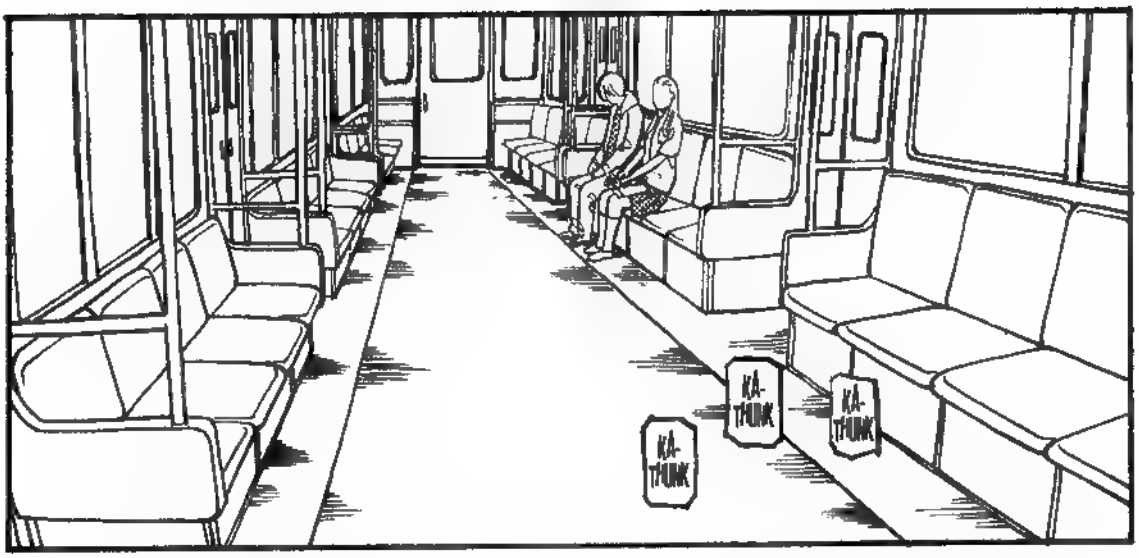

RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
...
BLEEP

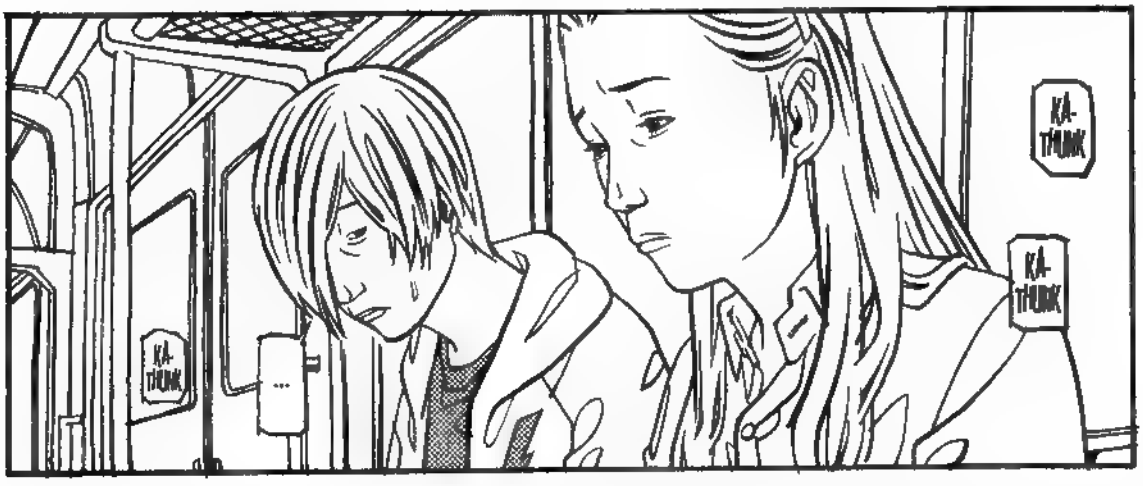
You're home, aren't you?
Hey, Kento?
Kento?
CRASH
NOK
NOK
Can you come take a look?
The computer's giving me all these error messages.

Is it 'cause you're with that girl from the Suzushiro place?
!
Why do you know about that...?
Huh?
Why haven't ya come over to my place these days?
...


...
This might be a little hard for you to understand, Kento...
Then why don't you stop them ?
...
You don't wanna have nothin' to do with those folks!
You know what the townspeople are doin' to them, right ?!
Might even be the purpose of a community to weed out the "foreign organisms" and eliminate them...
But there're times when a community needs a common enemy to stay workin'...
I've got to go.
Wait, Kento!
...
And besides... There's nothin' I can do about it anymore...

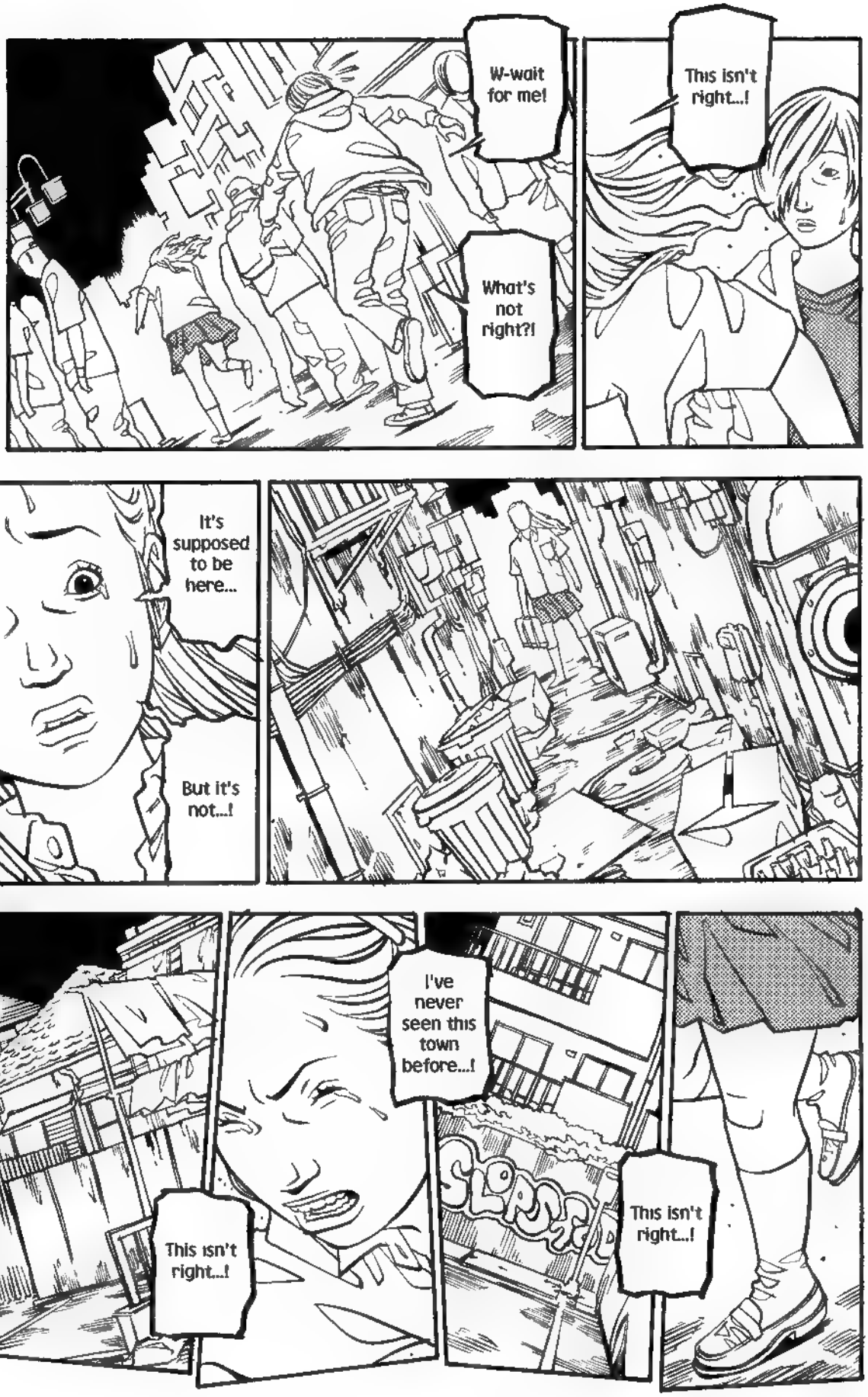
I knew it was gonna turn out this way!
I've had this bad feelin' all along!
Somethin's gonna happen!
Dunno why, but I've felt it! Ever since they first moved here!
That family's a "foreign organism!"
Let me go...
Somethin's gonna happen...
Let go!
Somethin's definitely...
Gonna happen...!

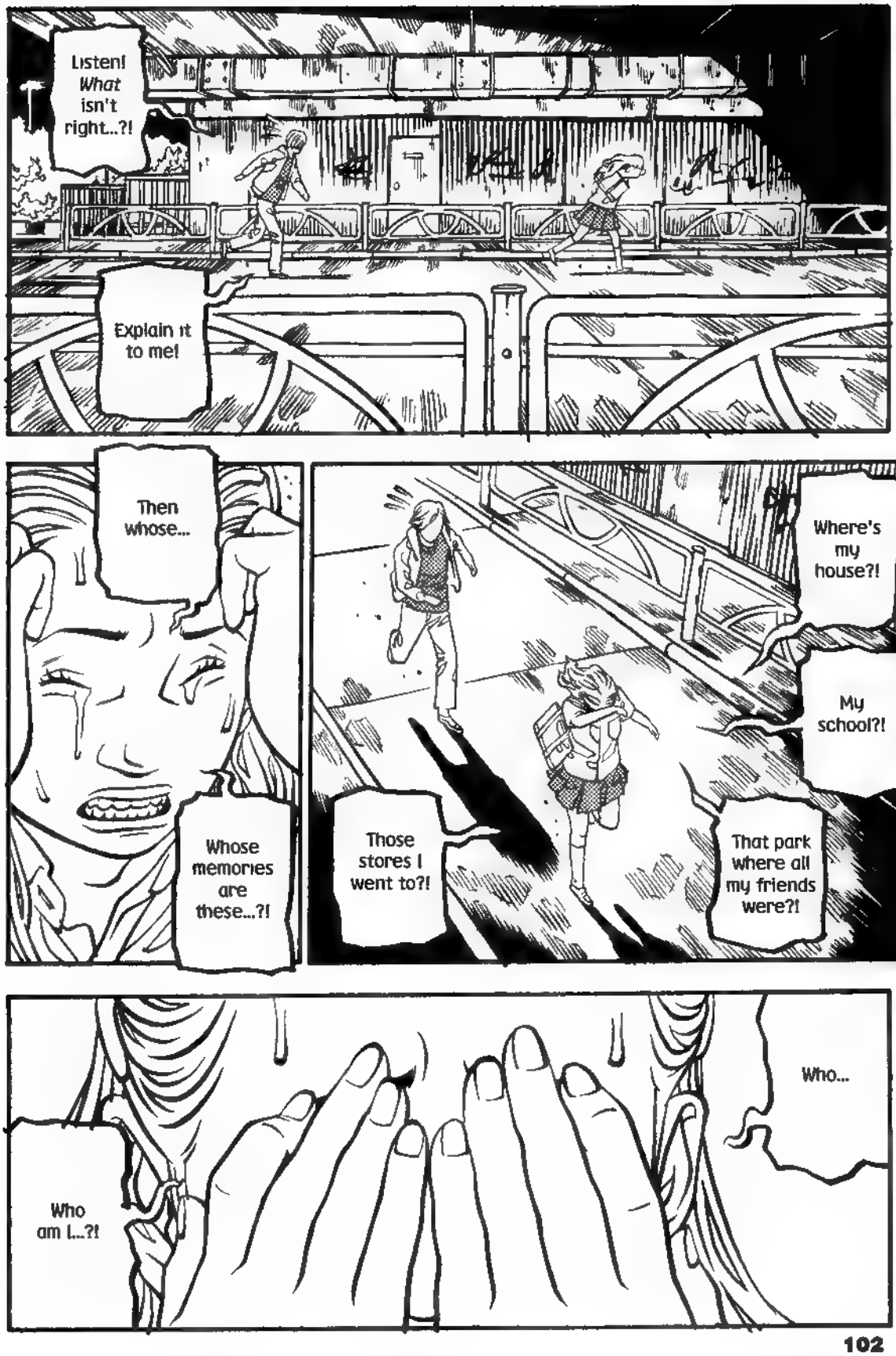

KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK

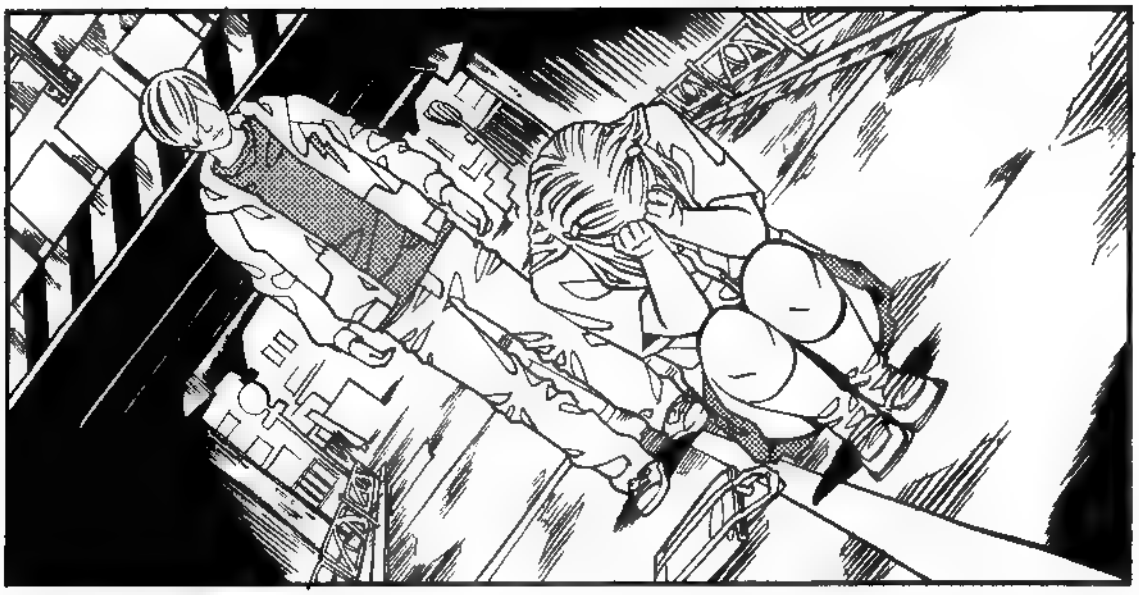

KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
...

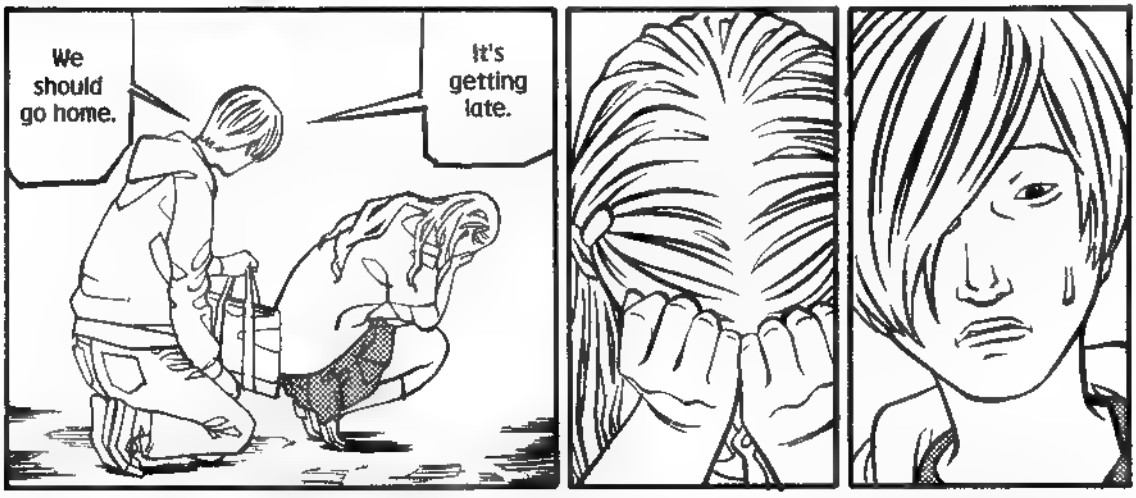
This is it!
?!
Hey...
Where are we going...?
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK

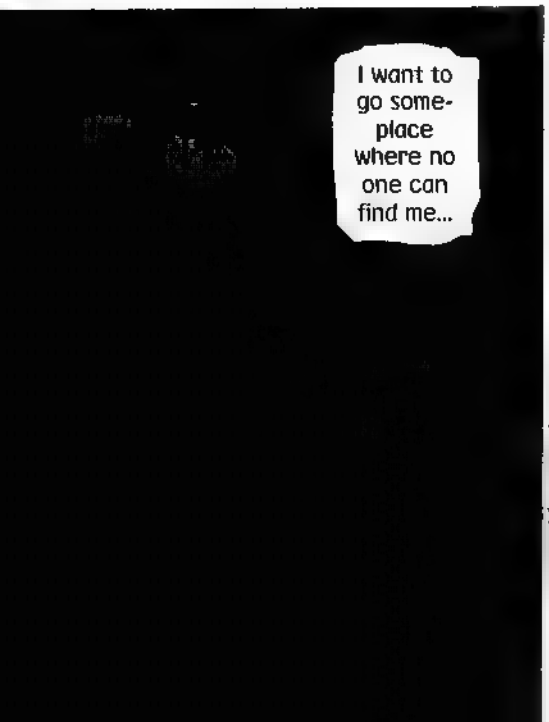
ときわ町
TOKIWA CHOU
RIIIING
H-
Hey...!
What...
Is this...?
?
...


W-wait for me!
What's not right?!
This isn't right...!
It's supposed to be here...
But it's not...!
I've never seen this town before...!
This isn't right...!
This isn't right...!


Listen! *What* isn't right...?!
Explain it to me!
Then whose...
Whose memories are these...?!
Where's my house?!
My school?!
That park where all my friends were?!
Those stores I went to?!
Who...
Who am I...?!

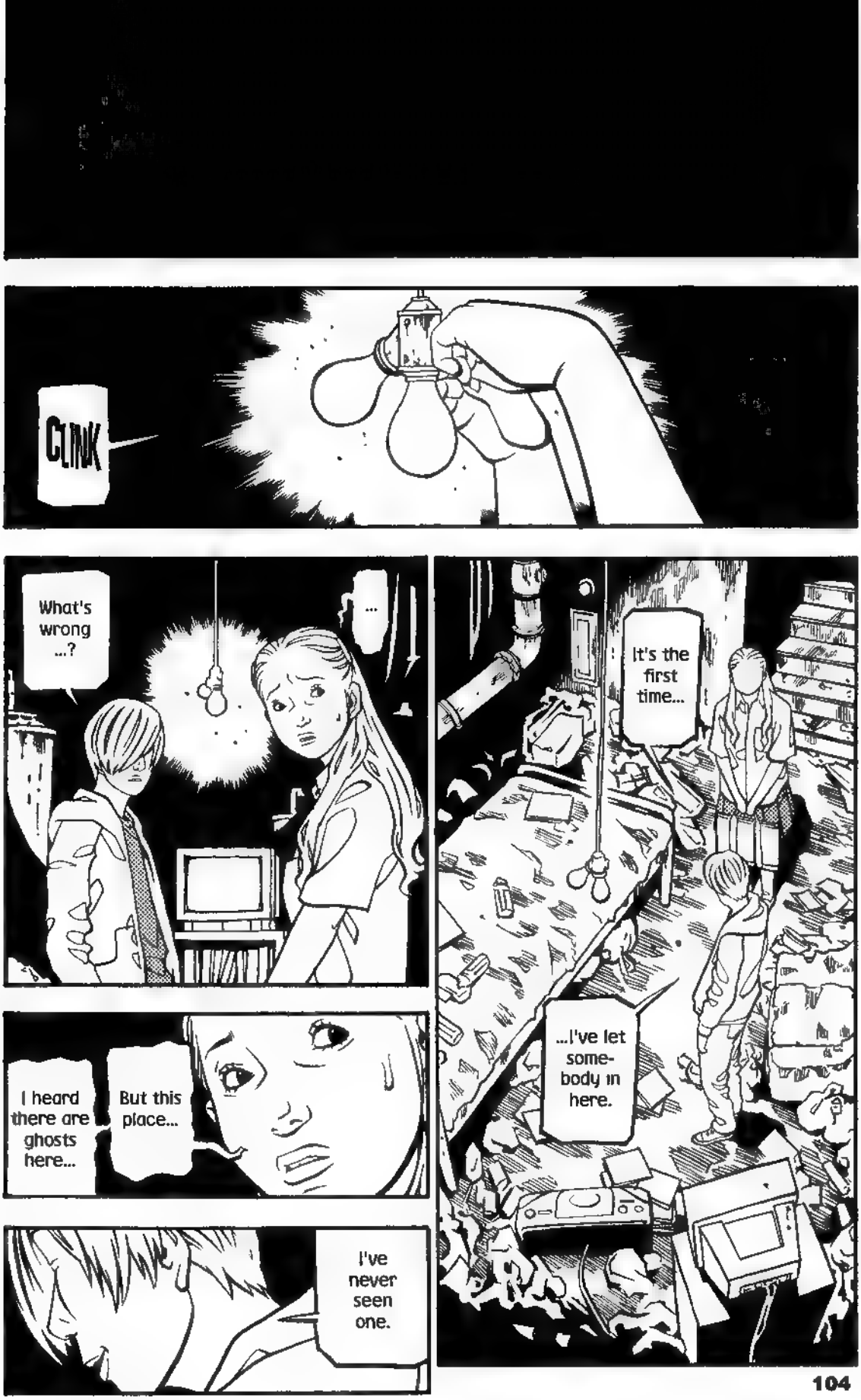



We should go home.
It's getting late.


I want to go some-place where no one can find me...

I don't want to go home...

But I don't want to stay here either...


CLINK
What's wrong ...?
...
I heard there are ghosts here...
But this place...
I've never seen one.
It's the first time...
...I've let some-body in here.

I don't really do anything.
What do you do here? All the time...
I just imagine... Stuff.
Imagine ...?
Maybe *I'm* the ghost they were talking about.
I come here a lot when I'm cutting school.
...I stopped existing in this world.
Like what if...
?
But the world keeps moving even when I'm gone...
Which means I disappear from this world whenever I come here, right?
No one knows about this place.

So... Sometimes I think...
Maybe I was never meant to exist in this world in the first place...

I'll tell you everything next time...
Sorry for dragging you around today...

You're too dark.

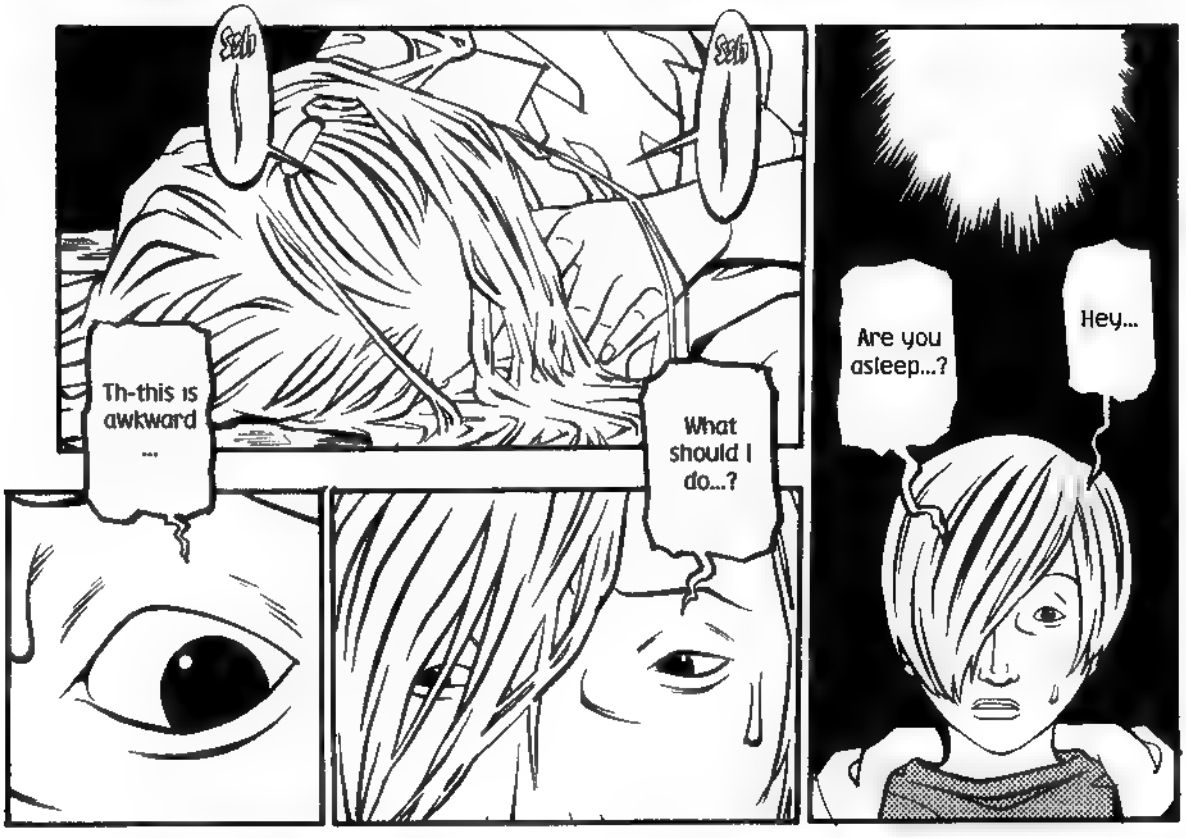
...

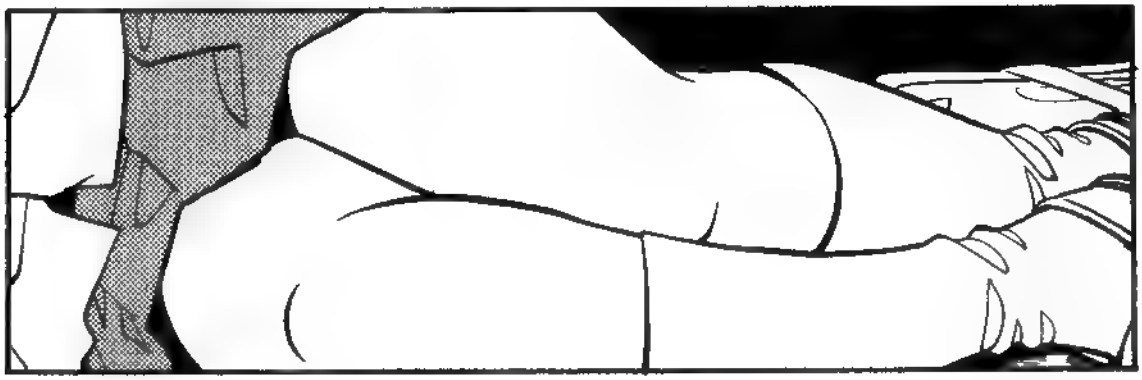
THUD

re...

I'm just too...
Ti-

...


Th-this is awkward ...
What should I do...?
Are you asleep...?
Hey...



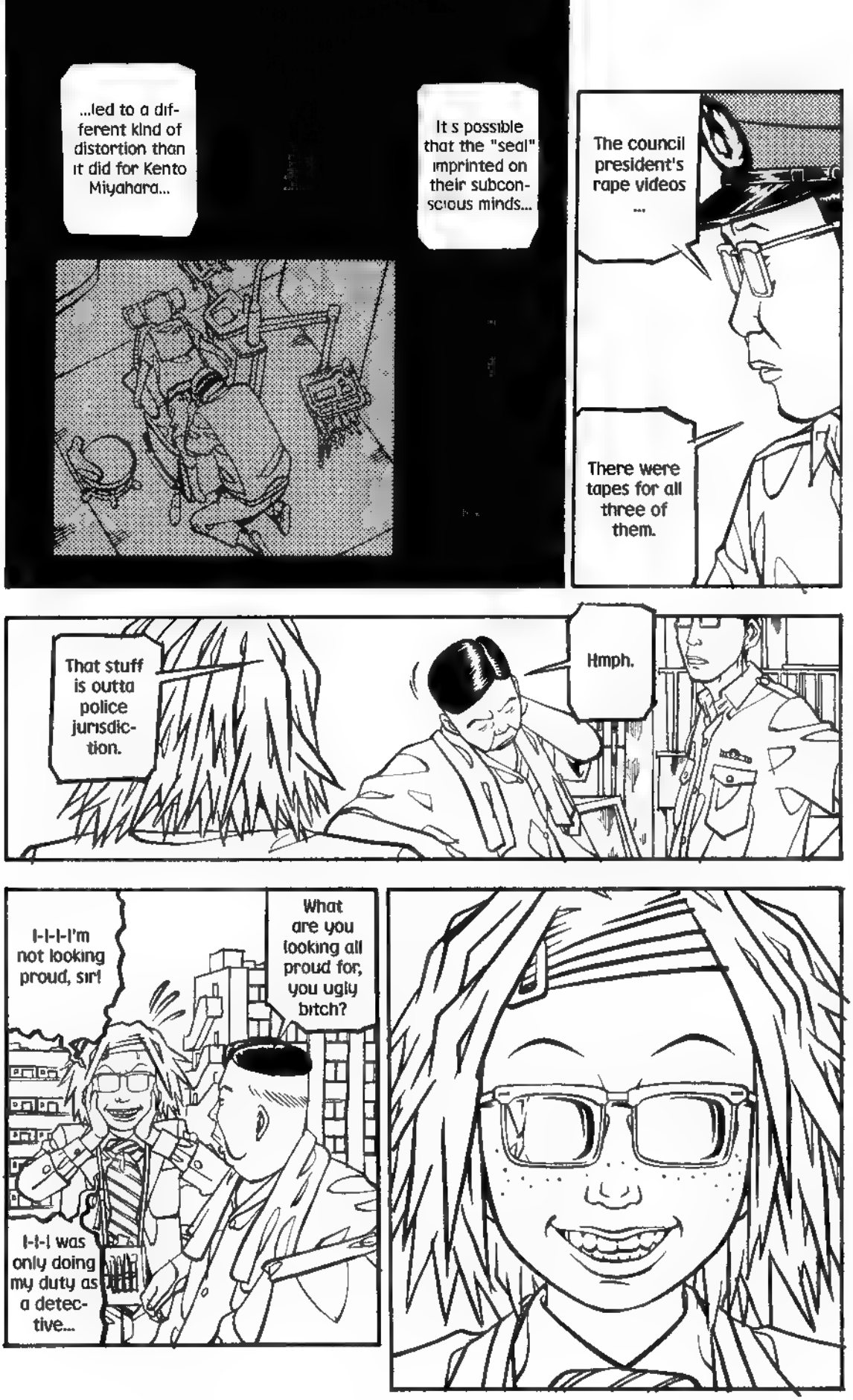
Hey...
Did you really fall asleep...?

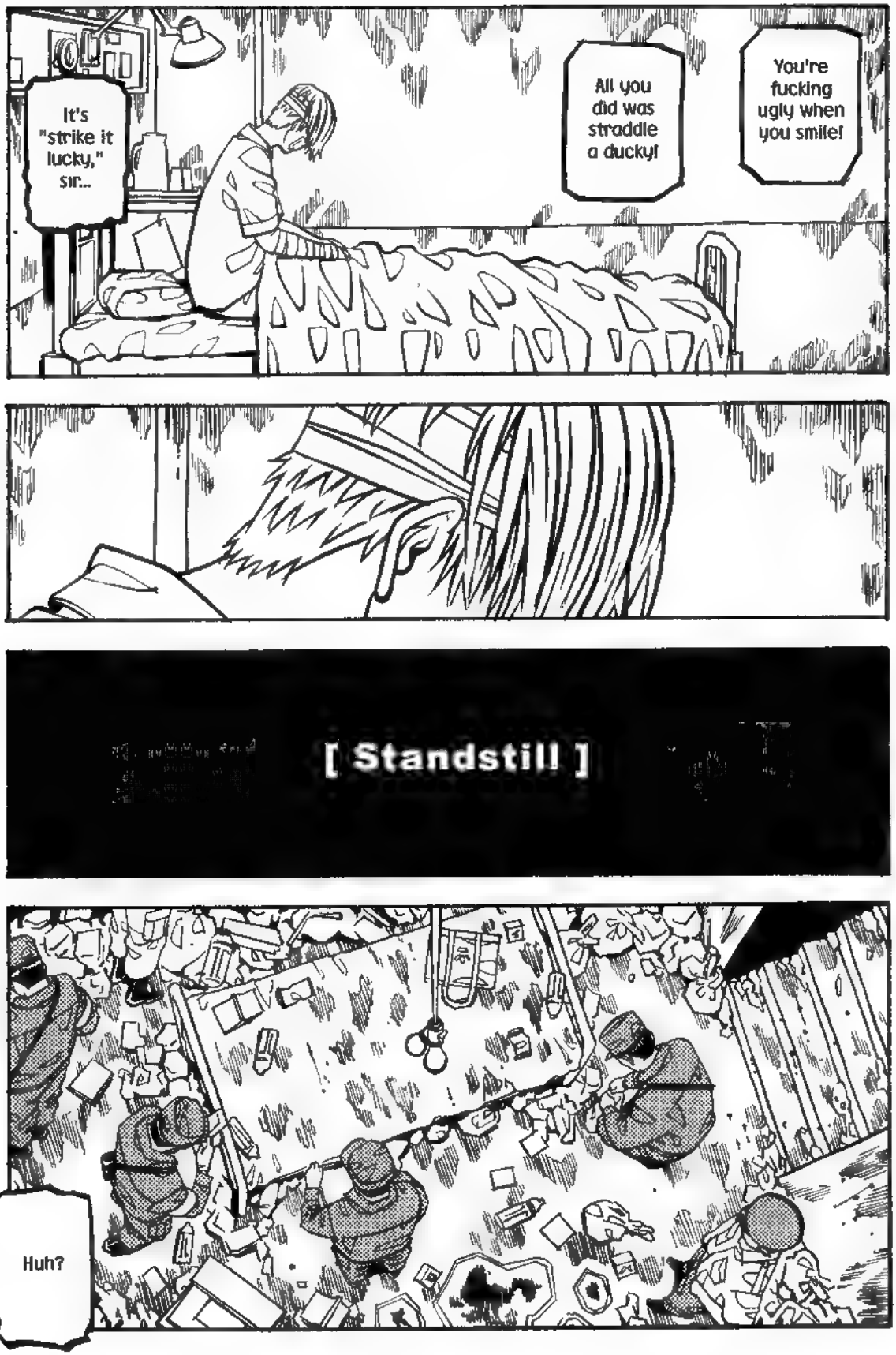
SOIL
Block 1-20 [End]

SOIL

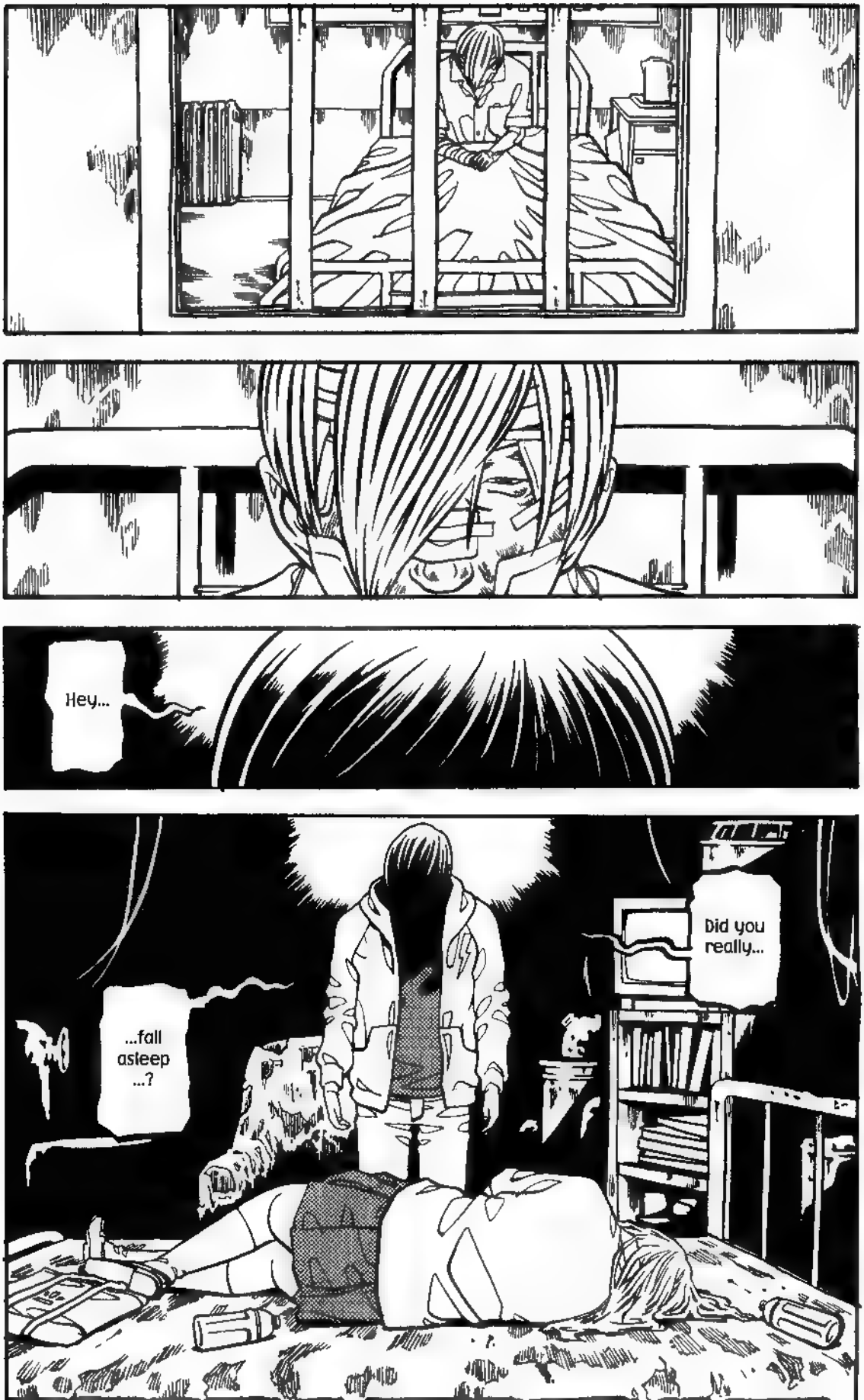
Block 1-21 [Standstill]

BLOCK 1-21
Looks like we'll be getting a lot more than rape and assault out of that trio.
But there was one interesting match...
Ahh?
It's not our problem anymore.
Juvenile unit's taking it from here on out.

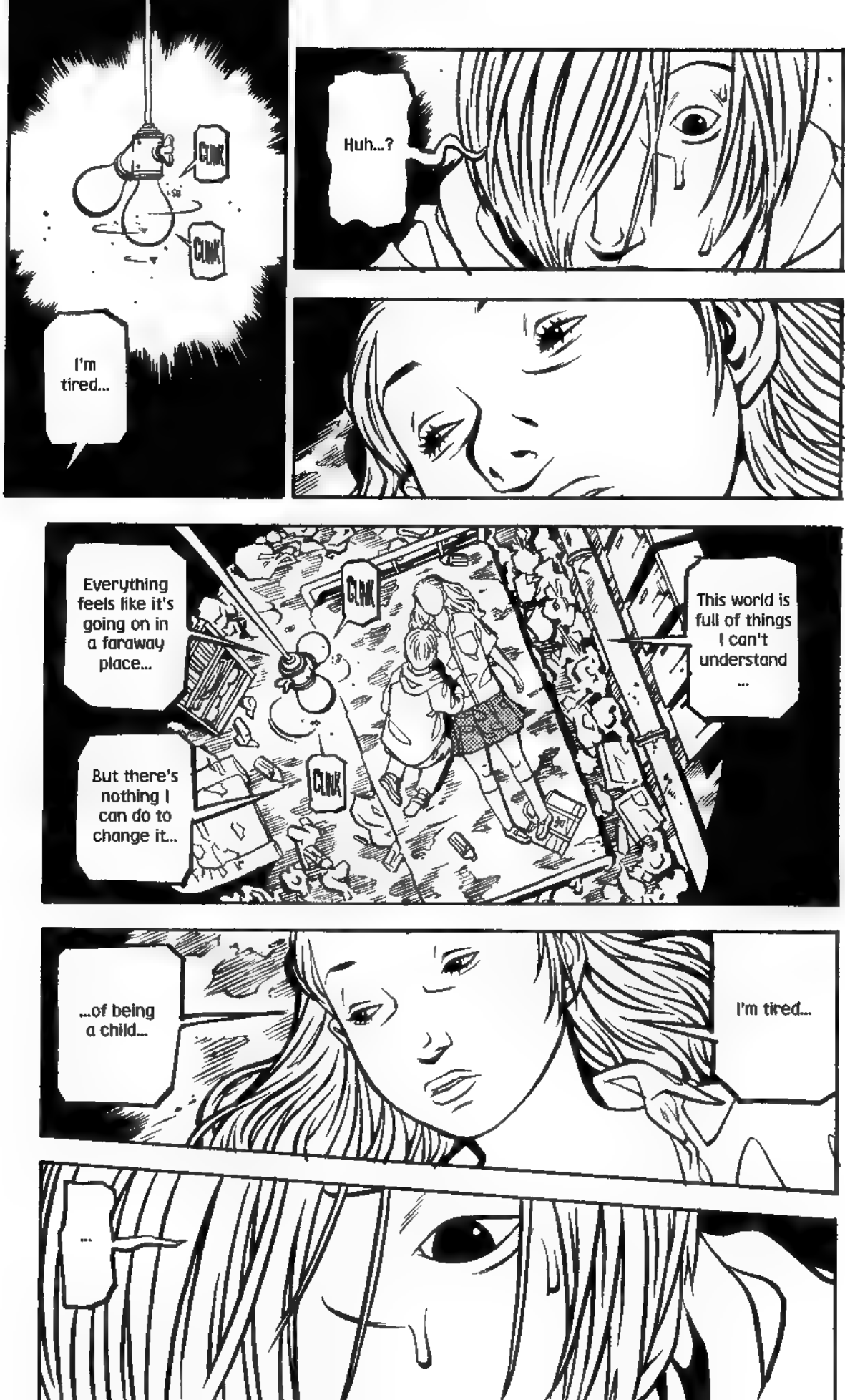

...led to a different kind of distortion than it did for Kento Miyahara...
It s possible that the "seal" imprinted on their subconscious minds...
The council president's rape videos ...
There were tapes for all three of them.
That stuff is outta police jurisdiction.
Hmph.
I-I-I-I'm not looking proud, sir!
What are you looking all proud for, you ugly bitch?
I-I-I was only doing my duty as a detective...

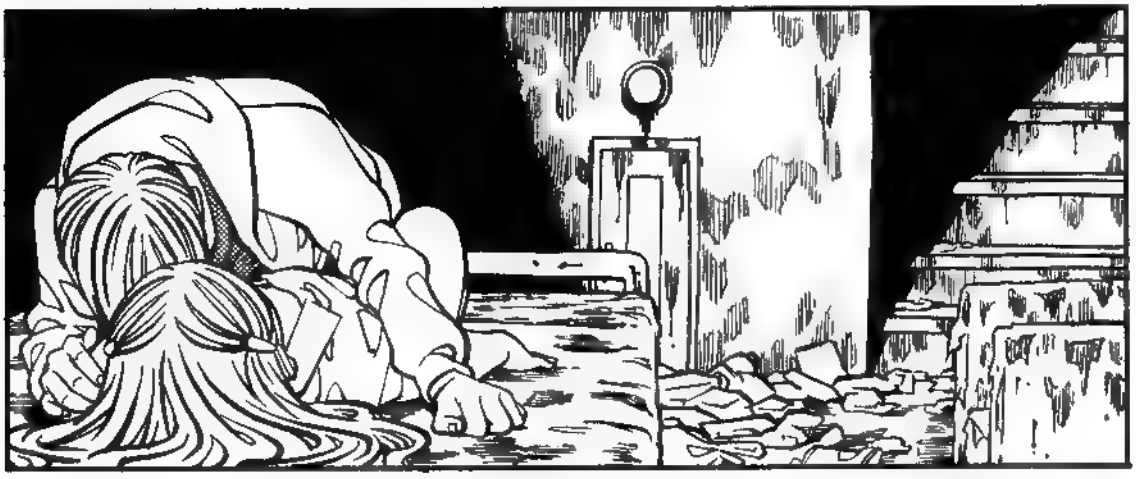

It's "strike it lucky," sir...
All you did was straddle a ducky!
You're fucking ugly when you smile!
[Standstill]
Huh?

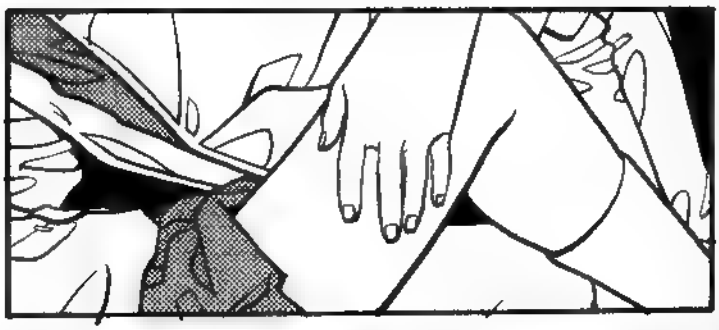
Huh?
Huh?
It's probably going to match the one that was taped on to the ransom letter.
On Kento Miyahara's pinky toe.
The nail's missing.
And they match the ones glued on to the ransom letter.
Some of the letters were torn out.
We also found several notebooks...
...inside of Mizuki Suzushiro's school bag.
103
Go ask the guy who made it.
He's right there in front of you.
S-s-so... What exactly does that...?!
Huh?
Huh?
Huh?

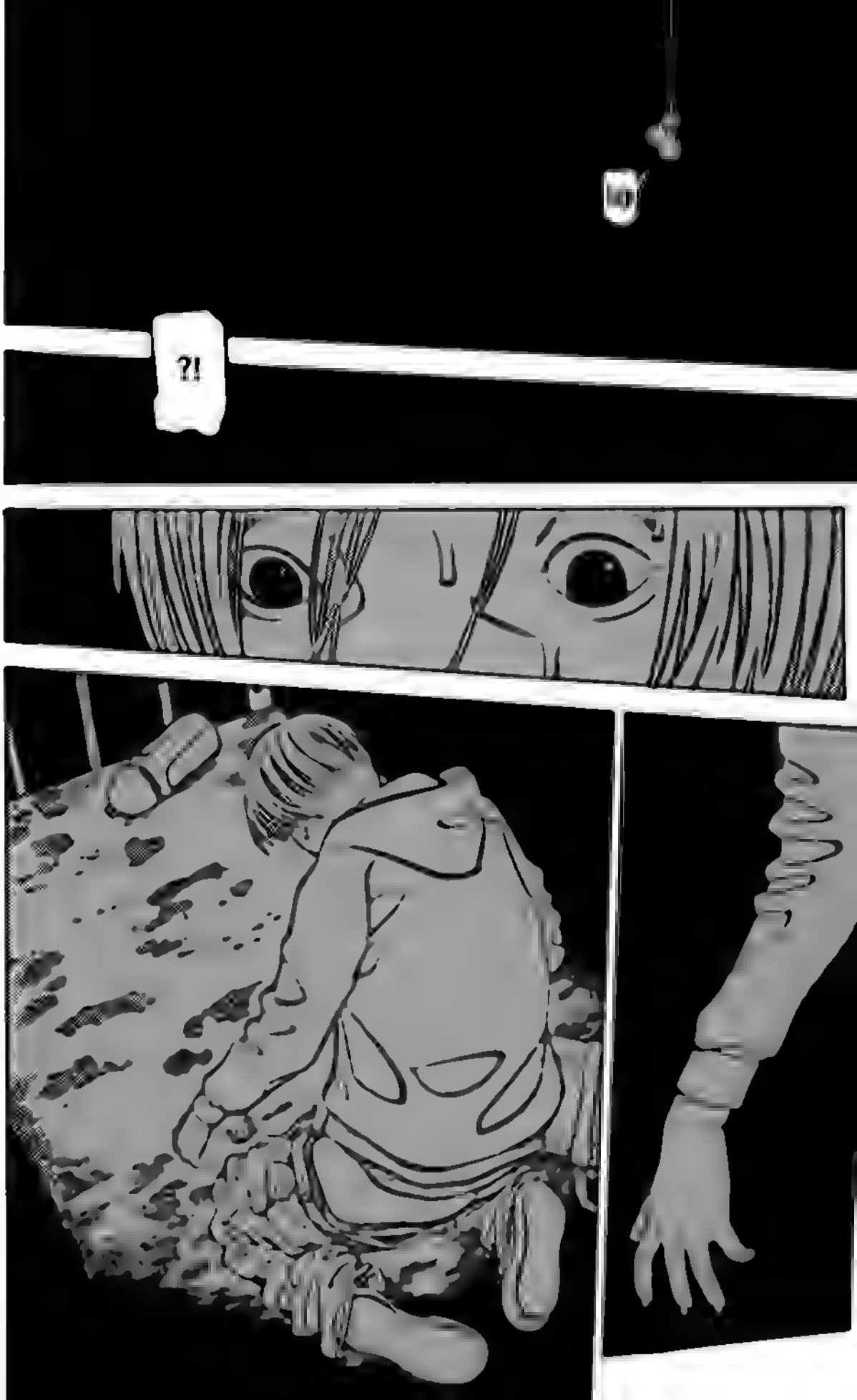

Hey...
Did you really...
...fall asleep ...?

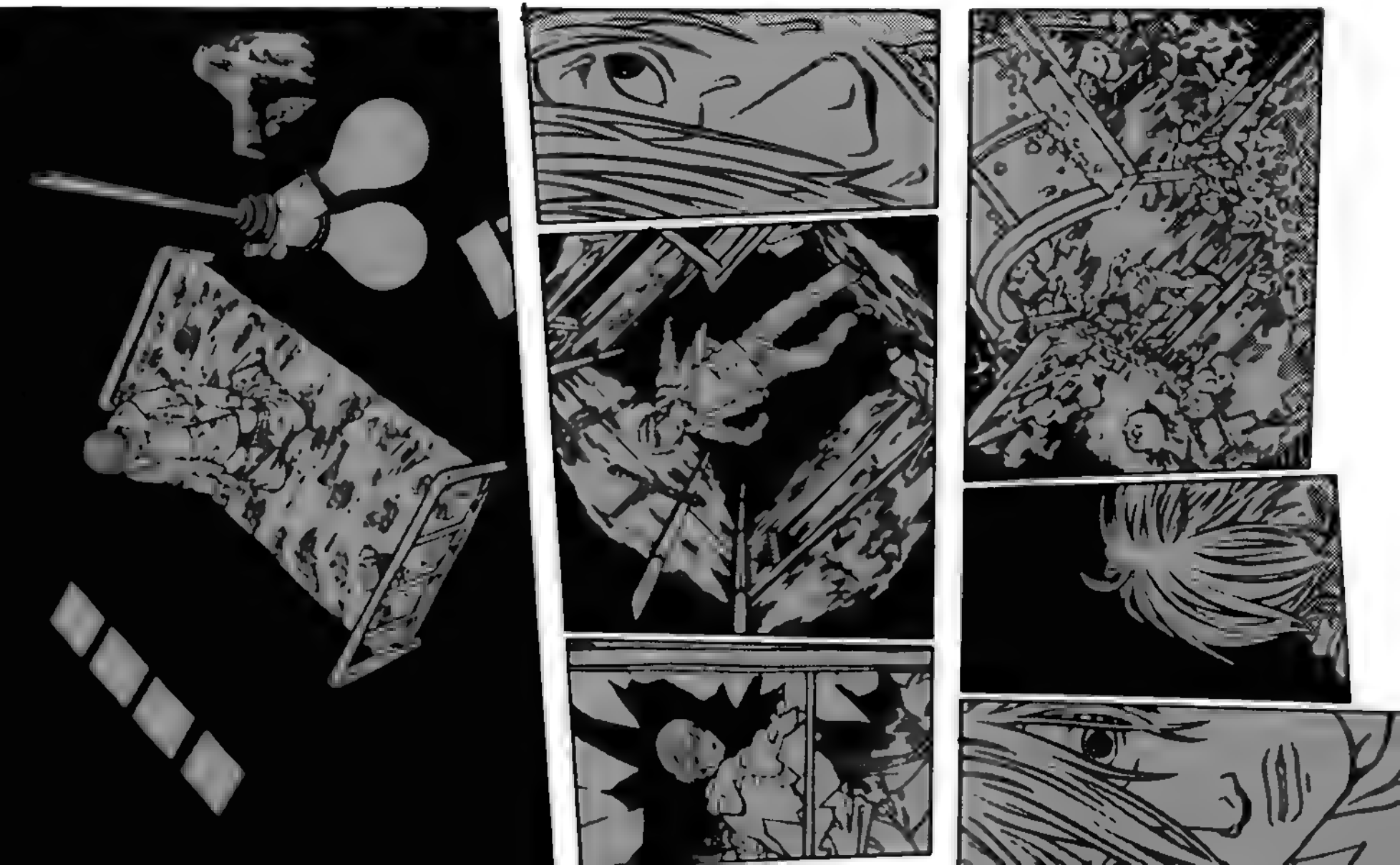
UGH!
Go ahead.

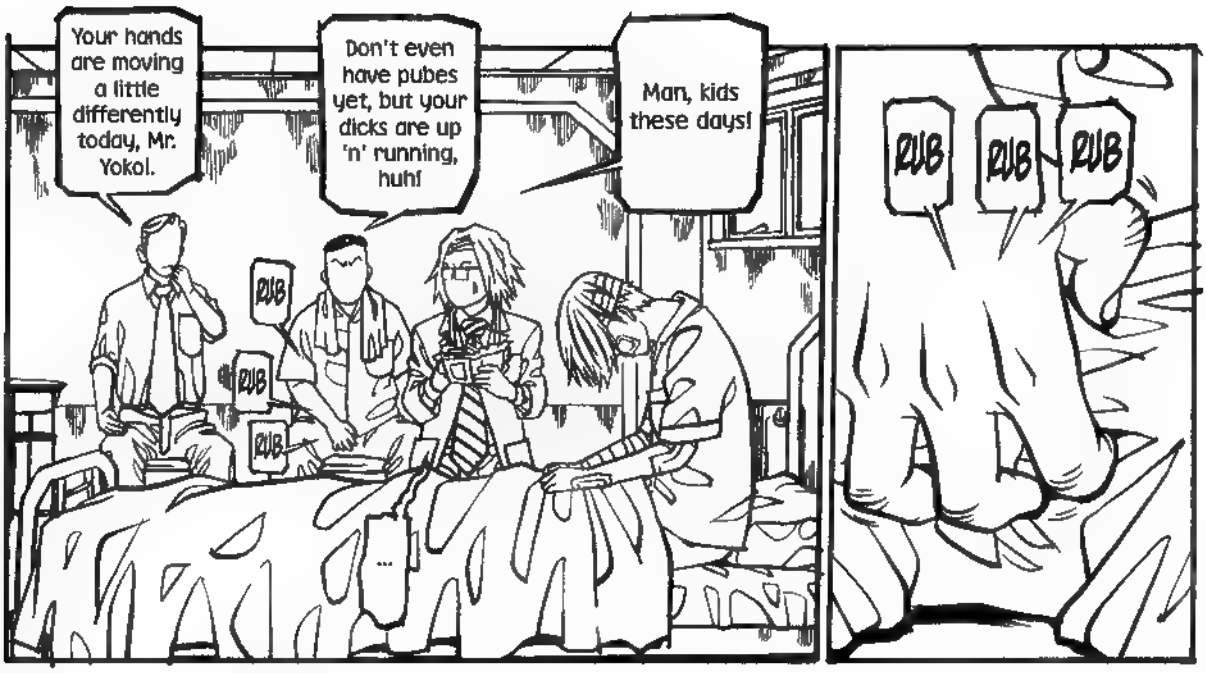

CLINK
CLINK
I'm tired...
Huh...?
Everything feels like it's going on in a faraway place...
But there's nothing I can do to change it...
CLINK
CLINK
This world is full of things I can't understand ...
...of being a child...
I'm tired...
...



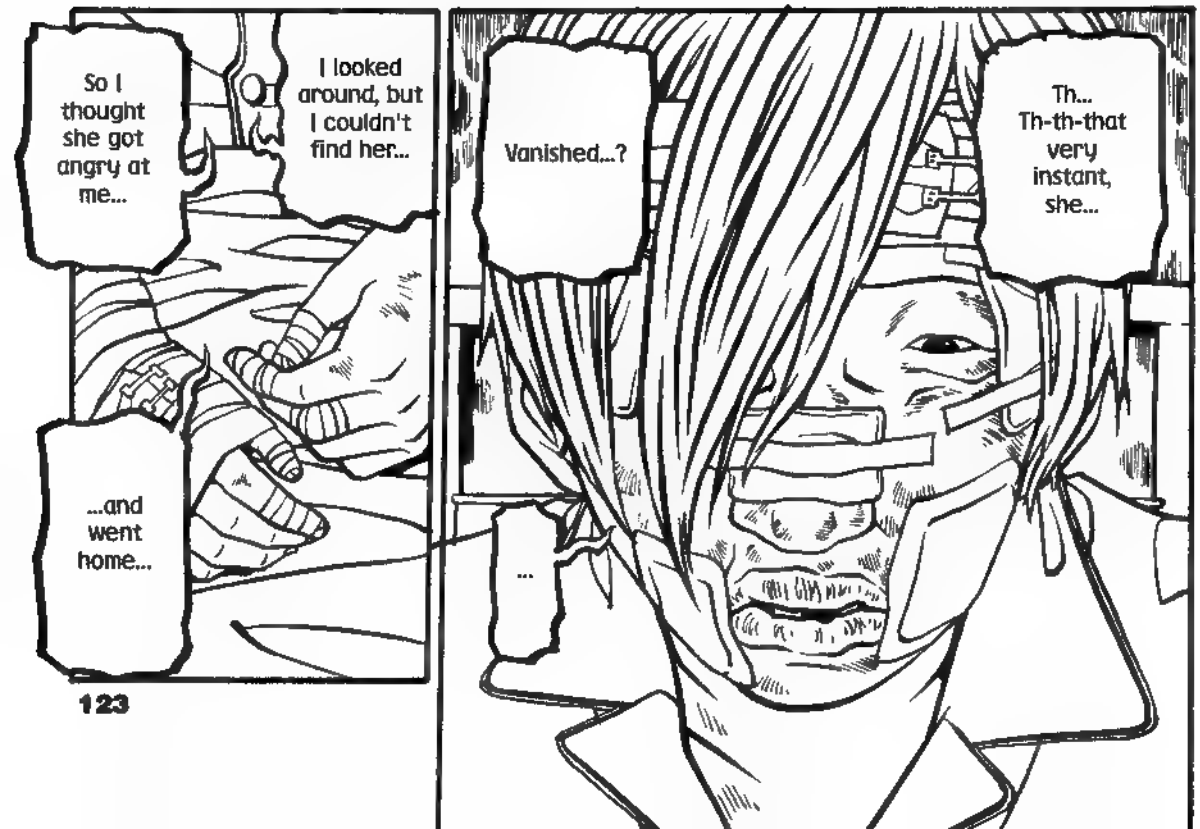


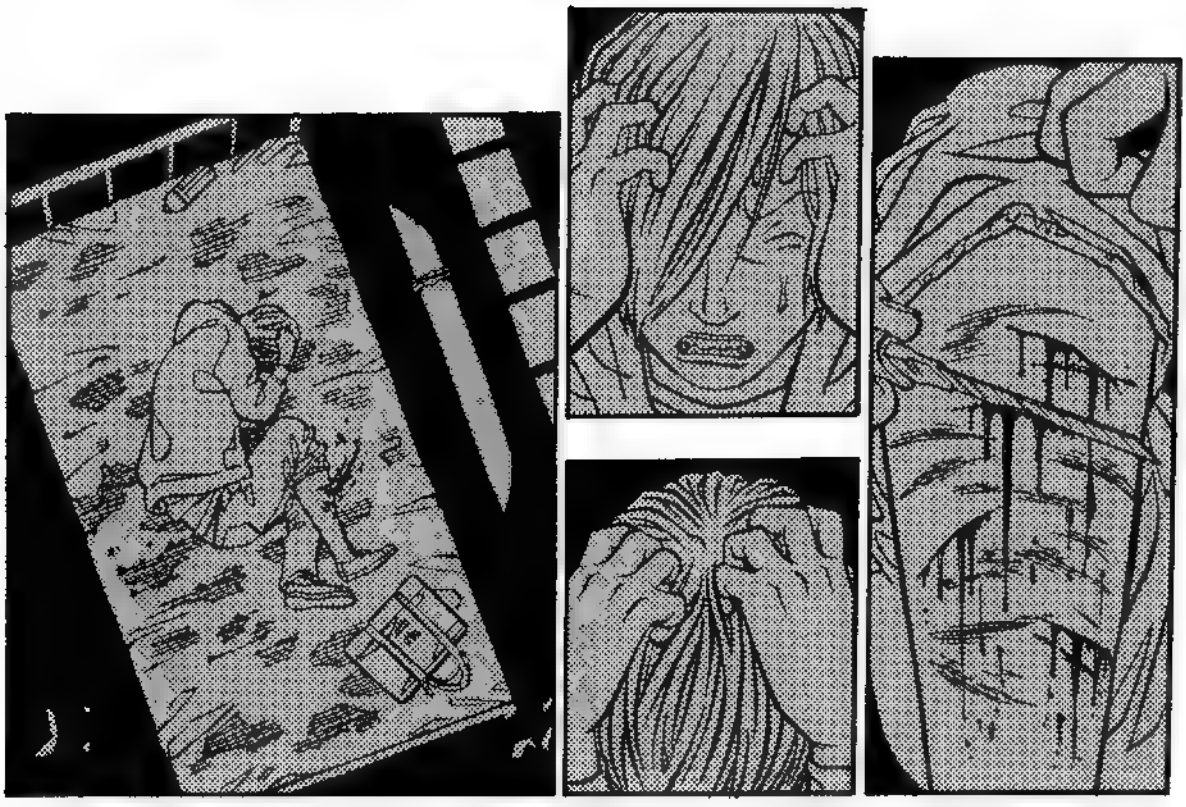


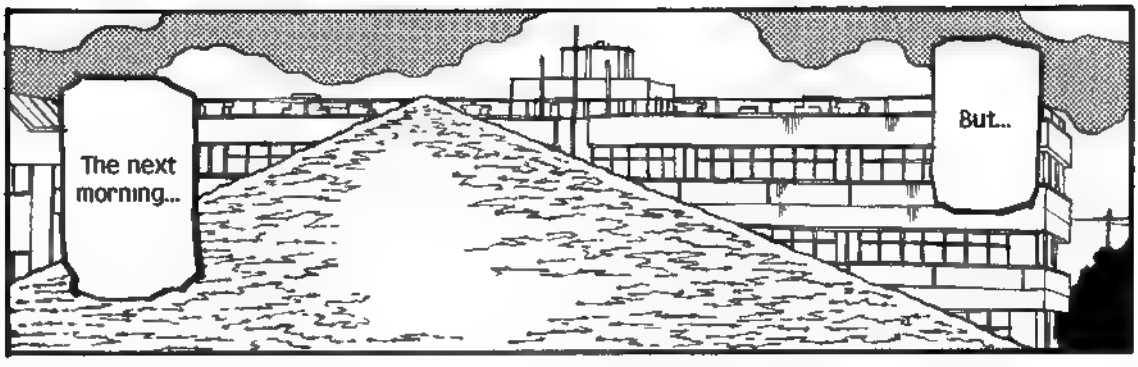


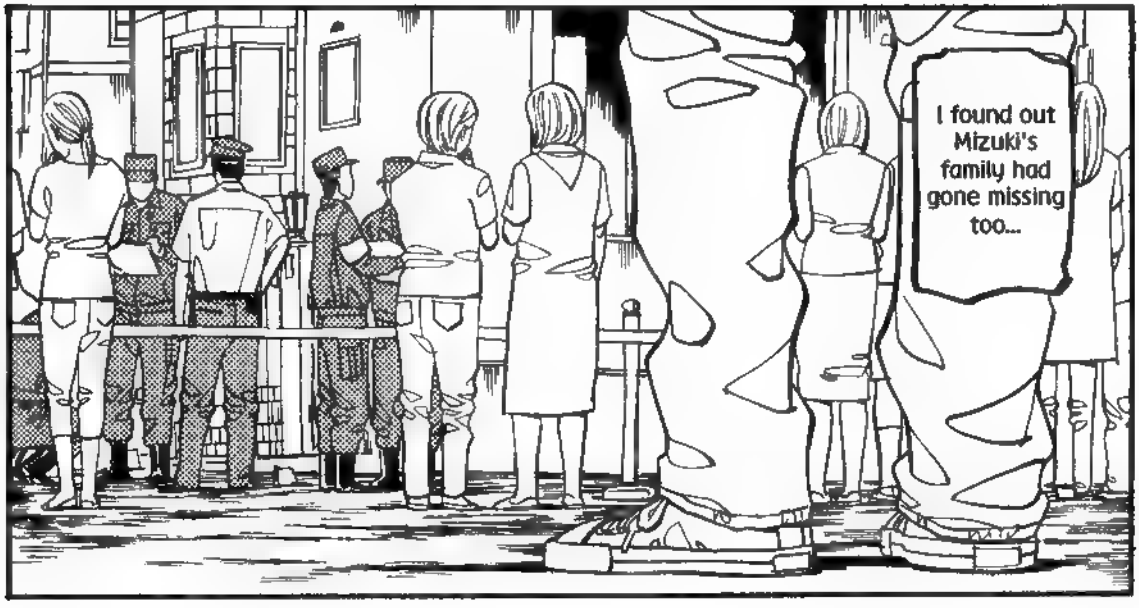

Your hands are moving a little differently today, Mr. Yokoi.
Don't even have pubes yet, but your dicks are up 'n' running, huh!
Man, kids these days!
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
...

Mizuki Suzushiro... Umm... How would you put it...
So... S-s-so you're saying... On the "n-n-night of the blackout..."

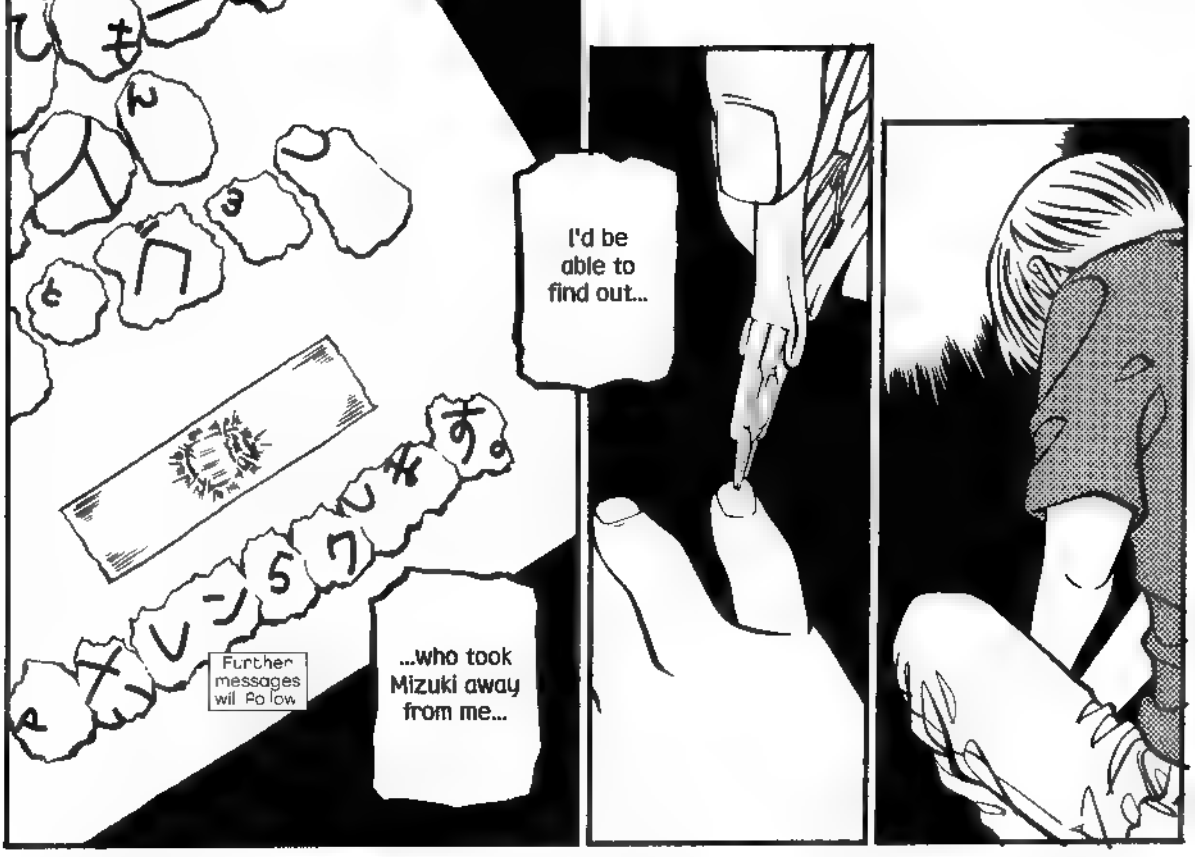

So I thought she got angry at me...
I looked around, but I couldn't find her...
...and went home...
Vanished...?
Th... Th-th-that very instant, she...
...

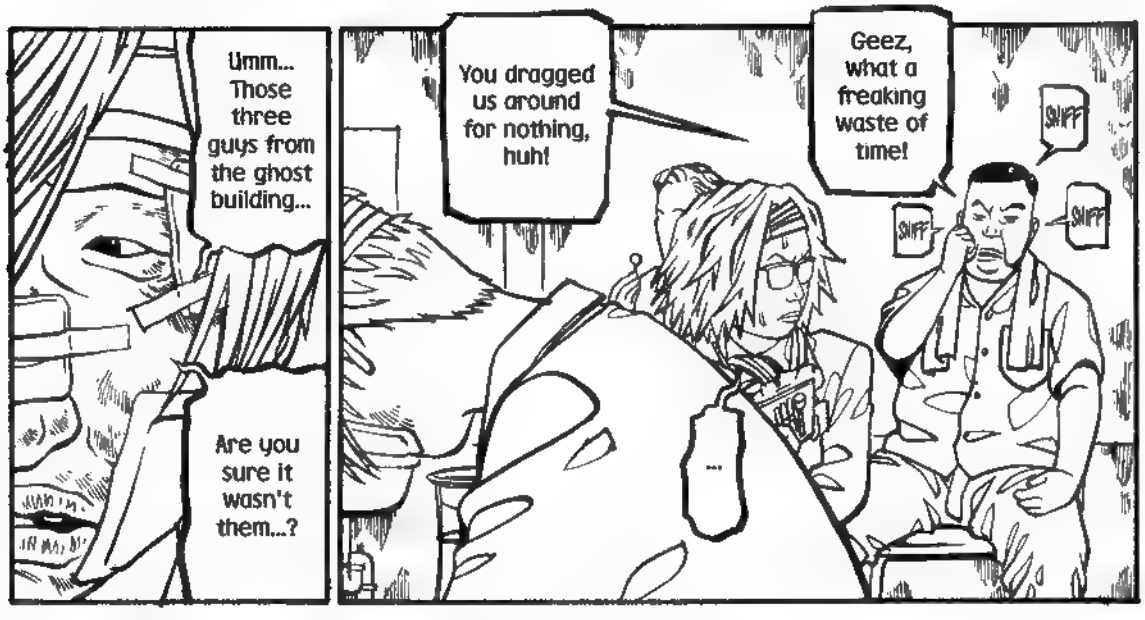



The next morning...
But...


I found out Mizuki's family had gone missing too...

I knew somebody from the town did it...
The blackout... All of it.
The objective of the ransom letter was...?
Th-then...
So if I could get them to panic with the letter...
Somebody... Would start talking on their own...
Nobody was going to tell the truth...
The guys from the town are all liars...

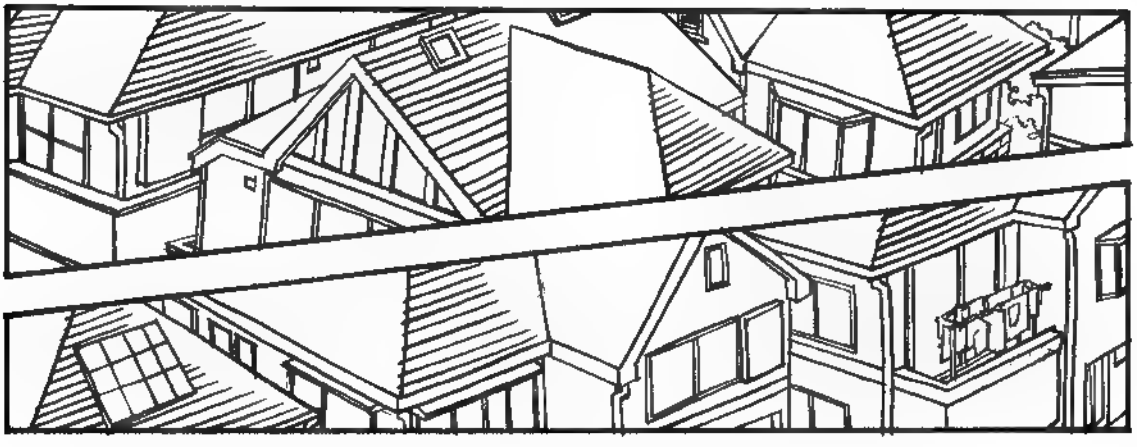

I'd be able to find out...
...who took Mizuki away from me...
Further messages will follow.

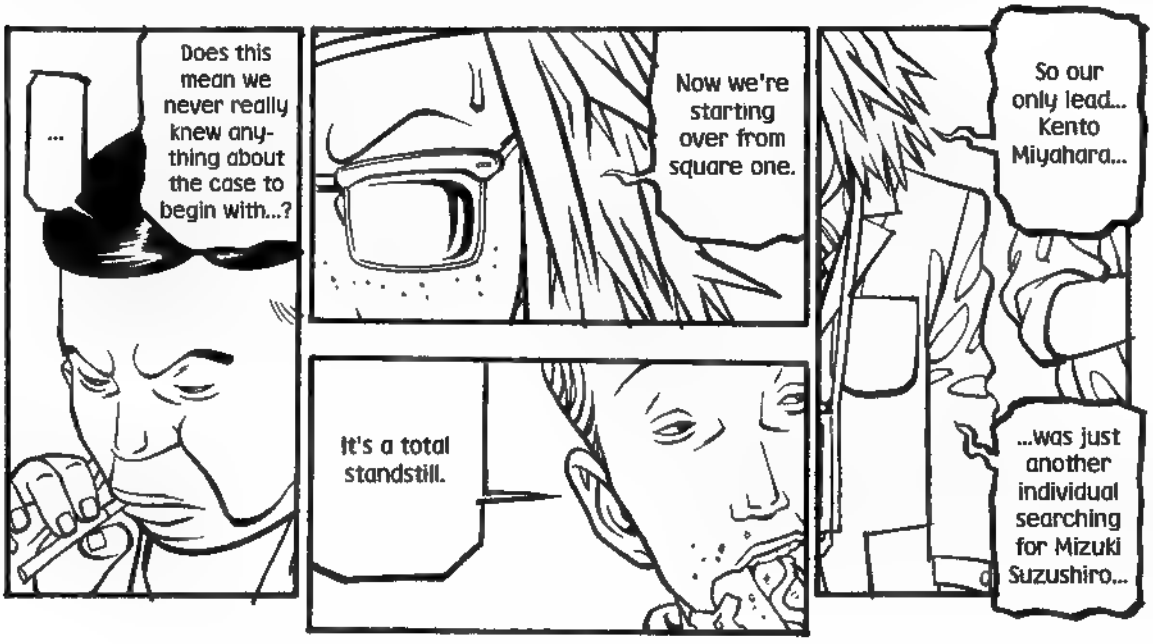

Umm... Those three guys from the ghost building...
Are you sure it wasn't them...?
You dragged us around for nothing, huh!
Geez, what a freaking waste of time!
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
...

Ohh, that's totally out.
Turns out those guys got arrested for robbing a car over in another town that night.

It's all because I tainted her...
It's all my fault...
I couldn't help Mizuki at all...
I couldn't do anything...
I see...
You sure you didn't mess around with that family?! Huh?!
You better not be lying now!
Hey, dickface!
S-S-S-Sergeant Yokoi! V-v-violence against a teenager is...
PULL
?!
I'm sorry.

Please...
Please find Mizuki and save her.

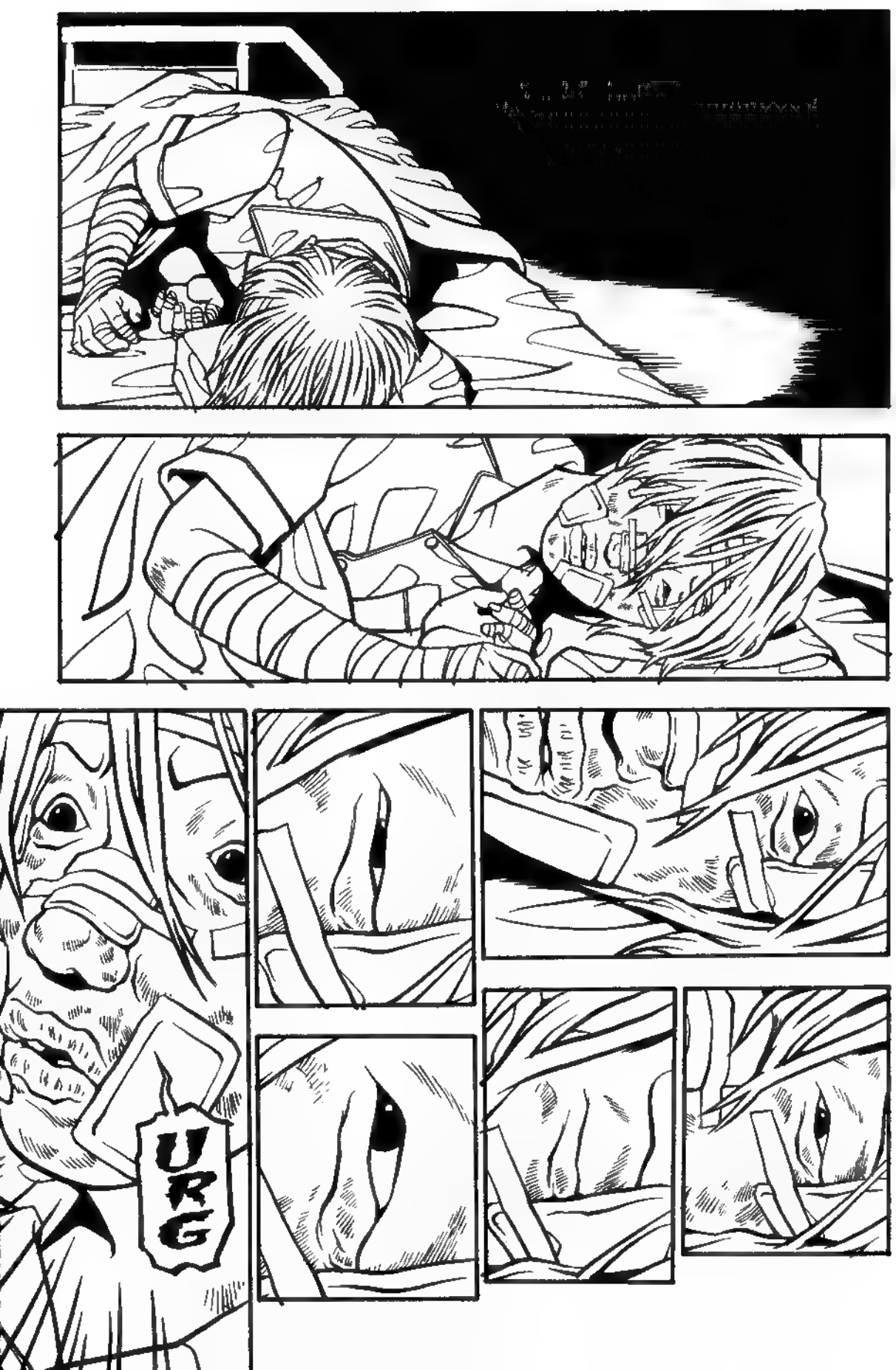


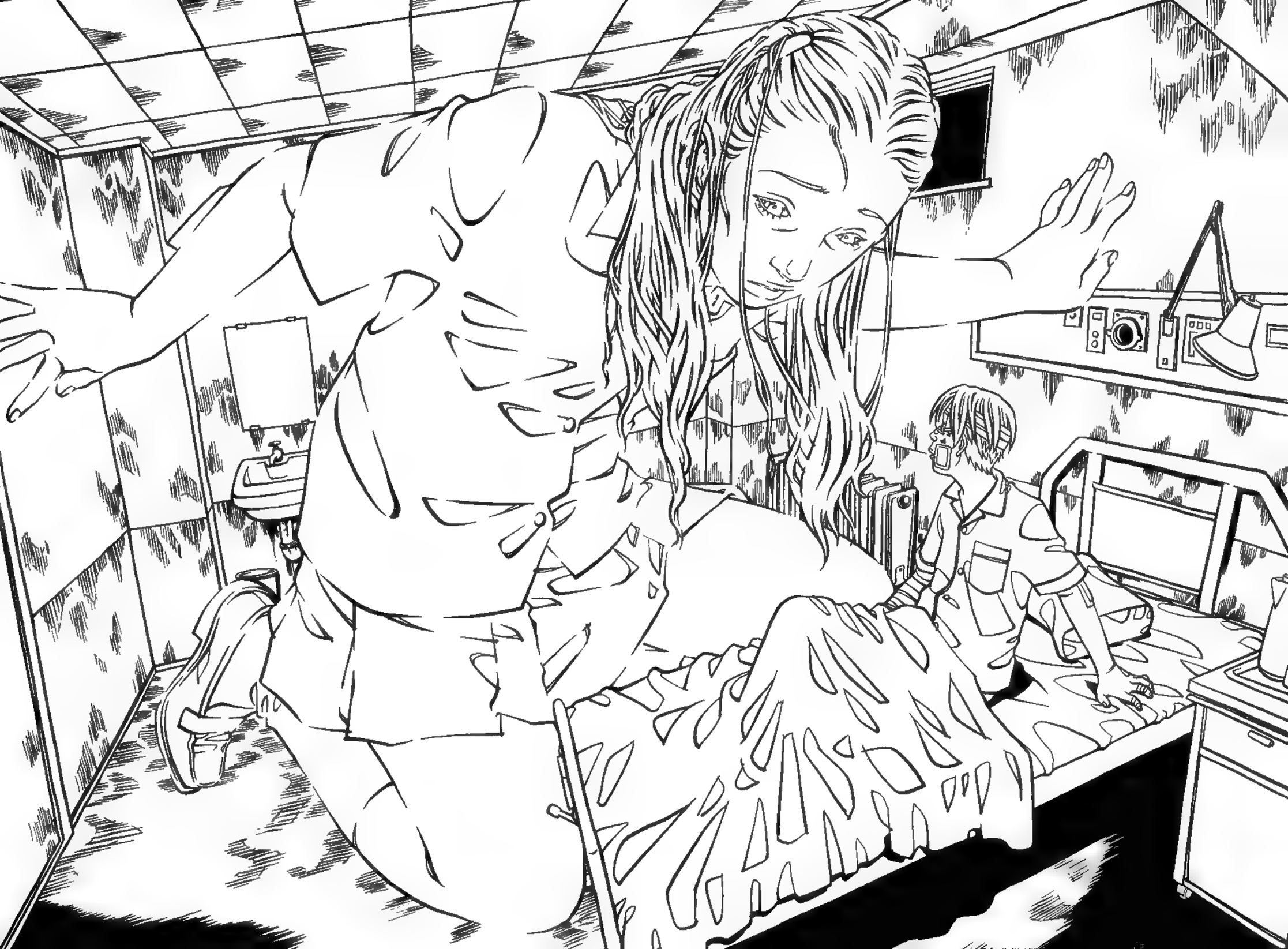

...
Does this mean we never really knew anything about the case to begin with...?
Now we're starting over from square one.
It's a total standstill.
So our only lead... Kento Miyahara...
...was just another individual searching for Mizuki Suzushiro...

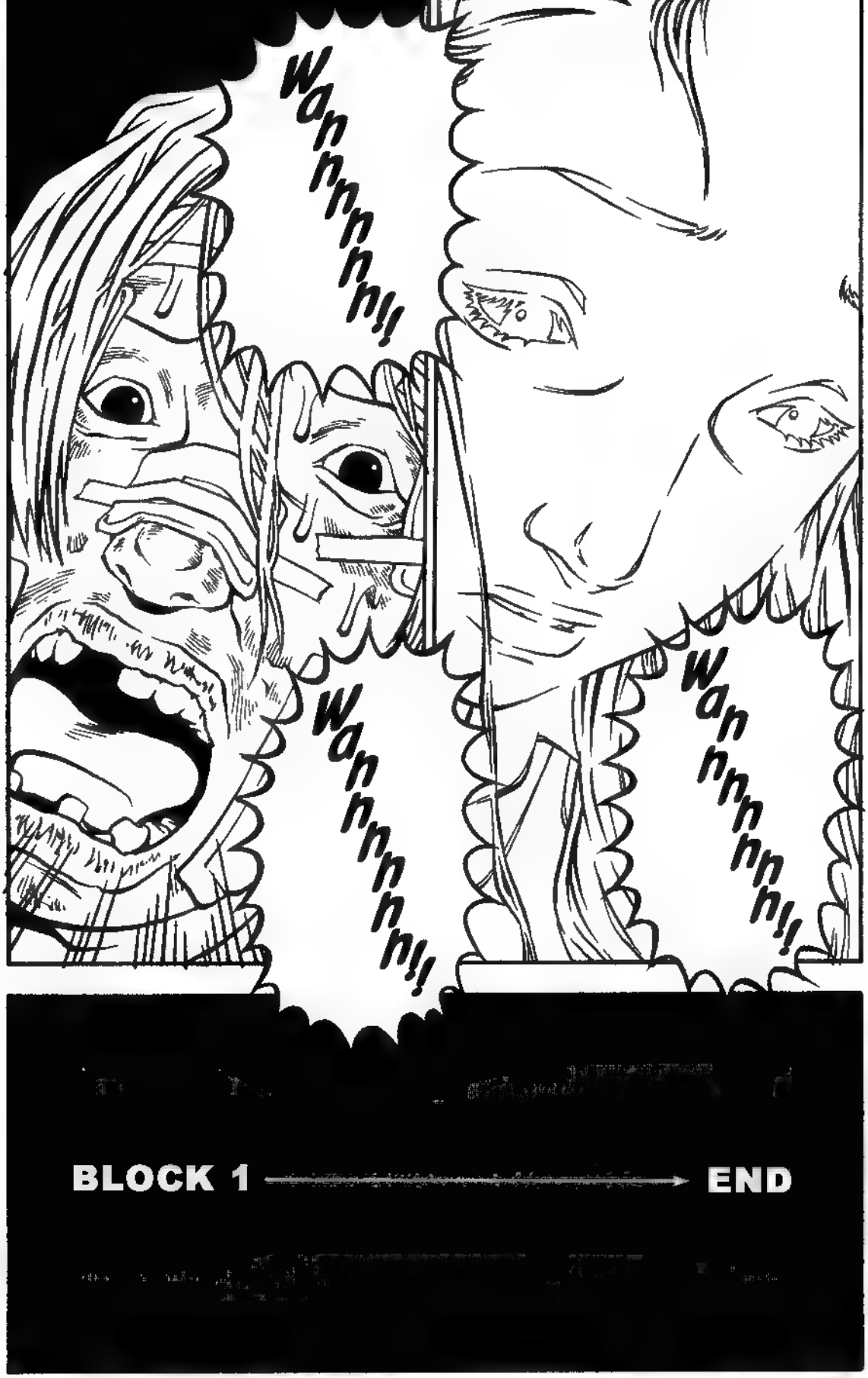
Who is the "man with scales...?"
Why did the Suzushiro family disappear so abruptly...?
And what about Officer Ichinose...?
What message does the "salt" convey...?

Now which direction are we supposed to go...?

We just gotta do what we're supposed to do.
Stuff we don't get is outta police jurisdiction, alright?
KRUSH
Sergeant Yokoi—!
S-S-Sergeant Yokoi?!
Wha—?! Where are you going?!
ZZT
Fucking annoying...
Tch...

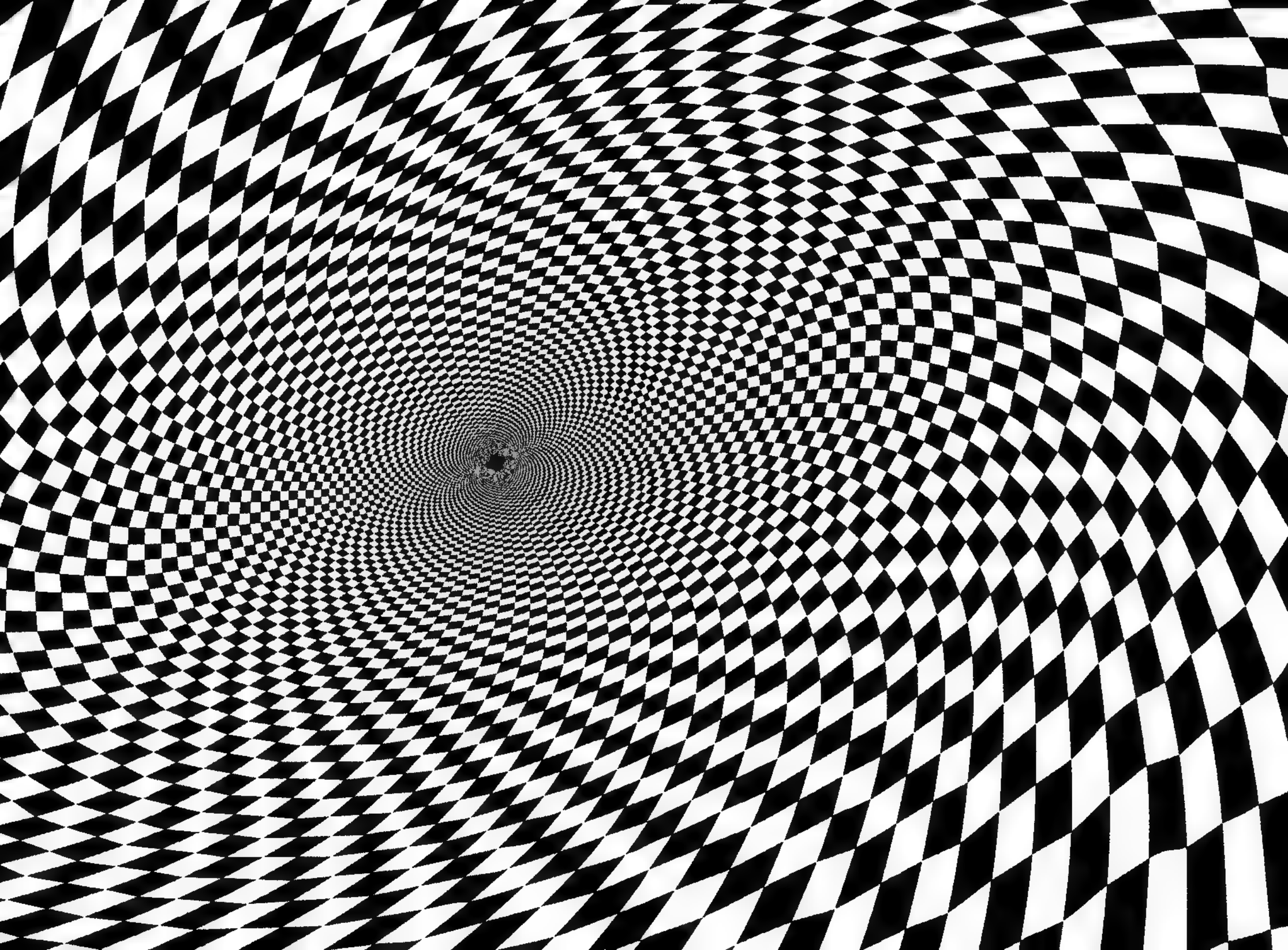

URG




Wannnnn!!
Wannnnn!!
Wannnnn!!
BLOCK 1
END

SOIL

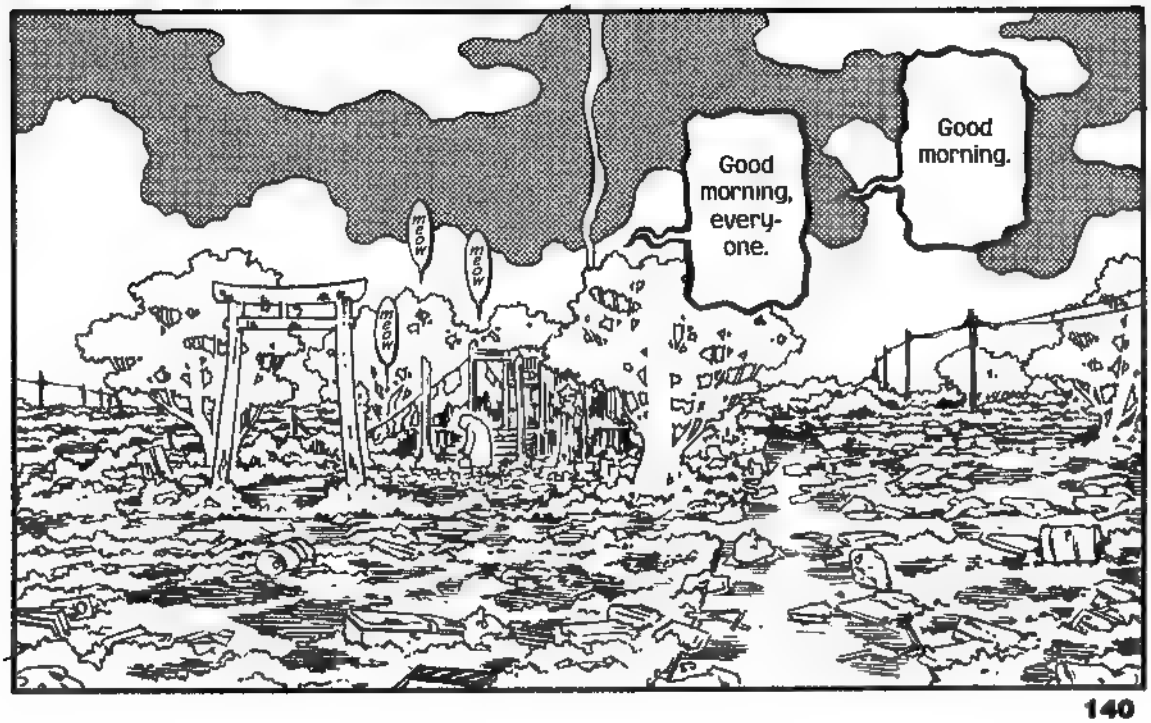
Block 1-21 [End]

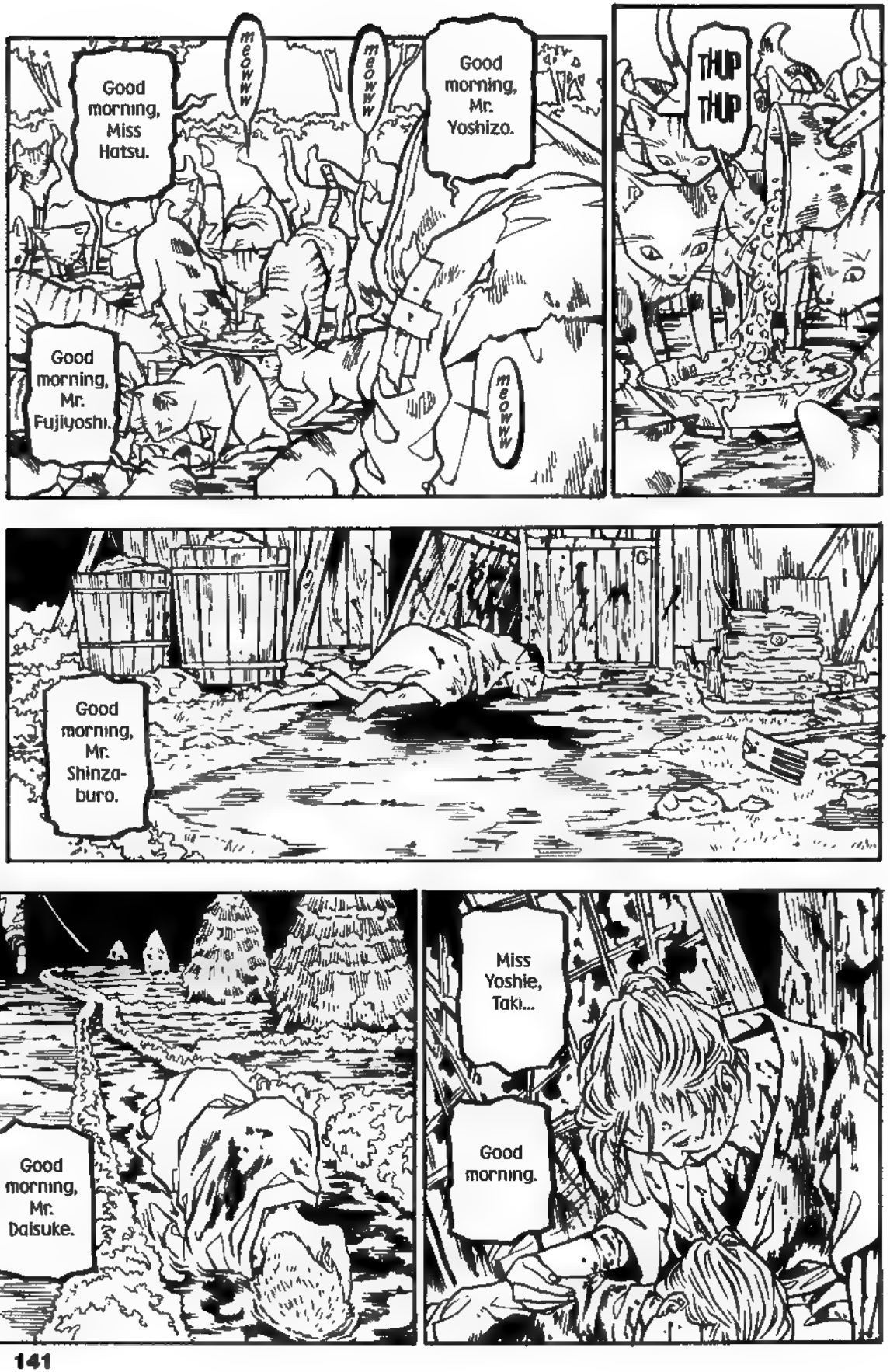


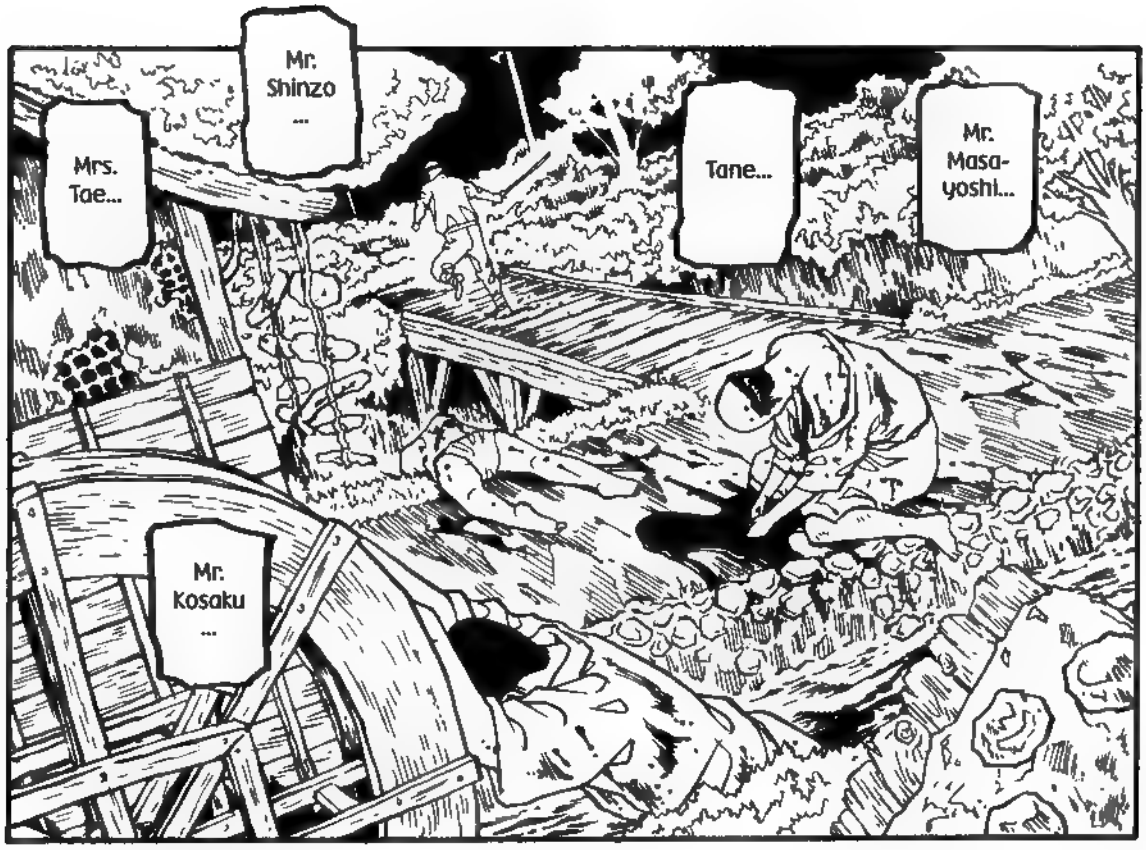
SOIL
Block 2-1 [The Beginning of the End]

Phoooooo!
Haaaaaa!
Hiyannnnn!!
Kam kawa Station Sports SwordFight ng Tournament
神川署スポーツチャンバラ大会
Kaneeeeee!!
TRUMP
TRUMP

BLOCK 2-1

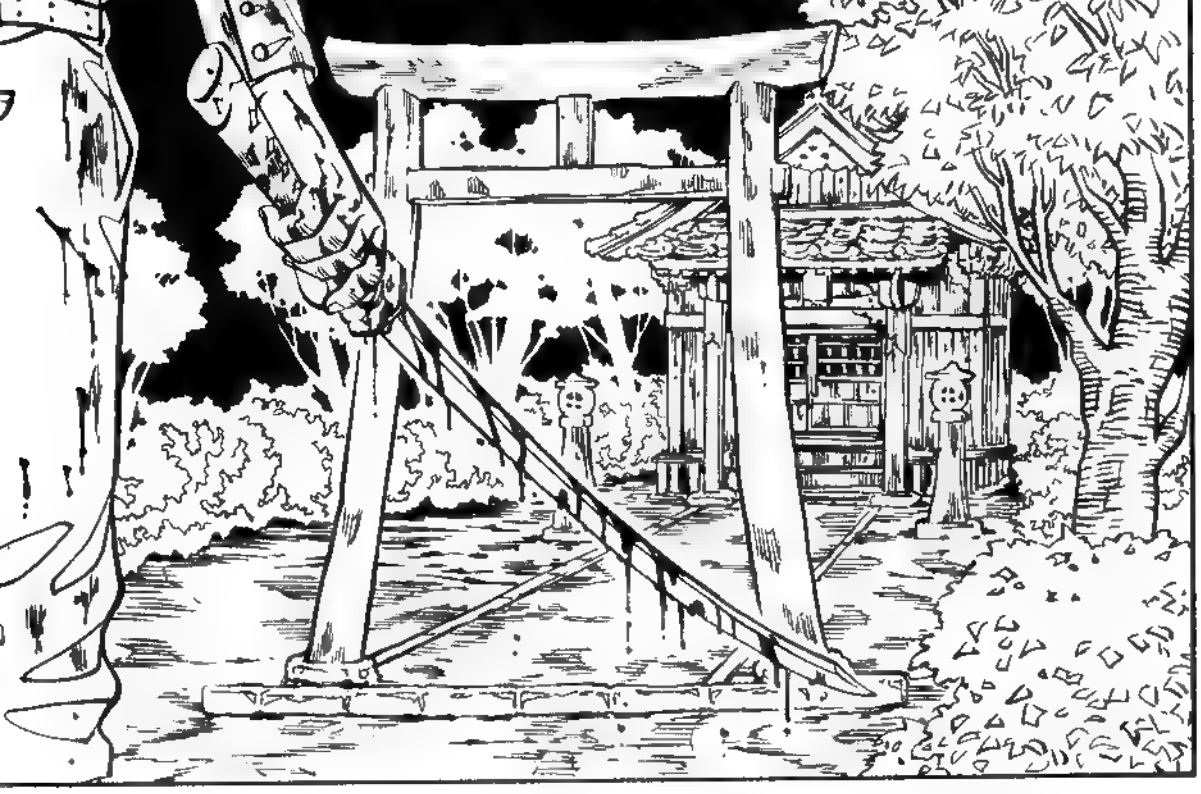


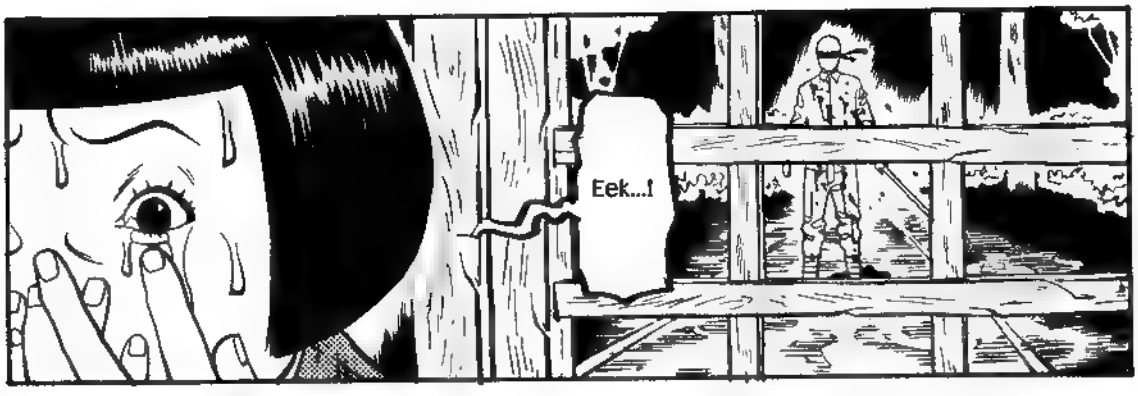

Good morning, Miss Hatsu.
meoww
meoww
Good morning, Mr. Yoshizo.
THUP THUP
Good morning, Mr. Fujiyoshi.
meoww
Good morning, Mr. Shinza-buro.
Good morning, Mr. Daisuke.
Miss Yoshie, Taki...
Good morning.

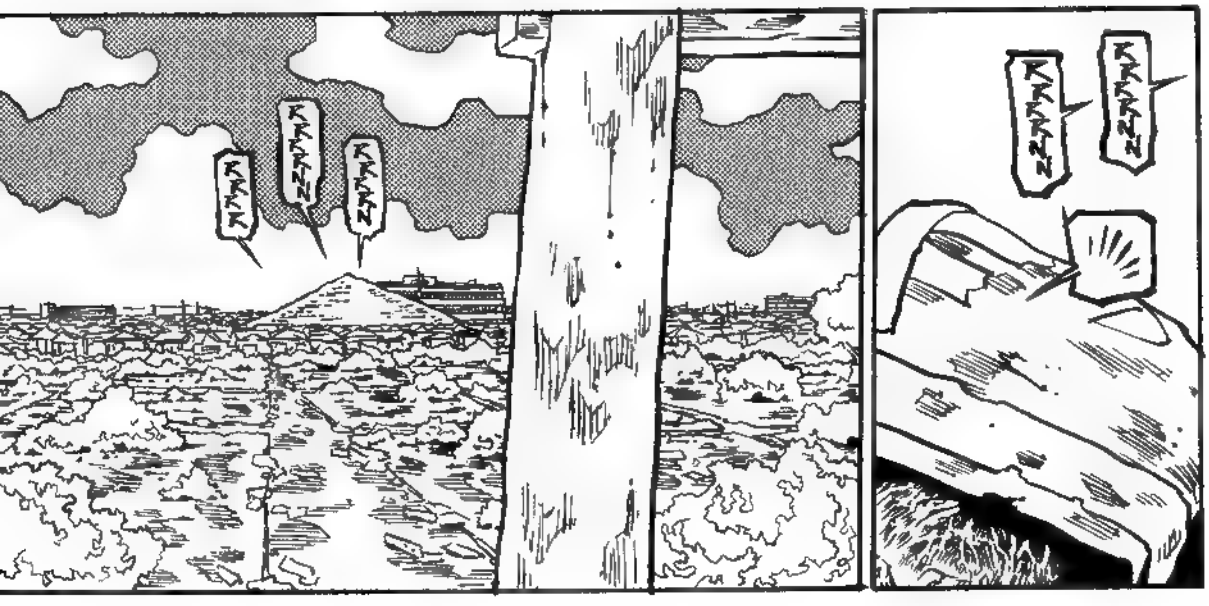

Mr. Shinzo ...
Mrs. Tae...
Tane...
Mr. Masa-yoshi...
Mr. Kosaku ...

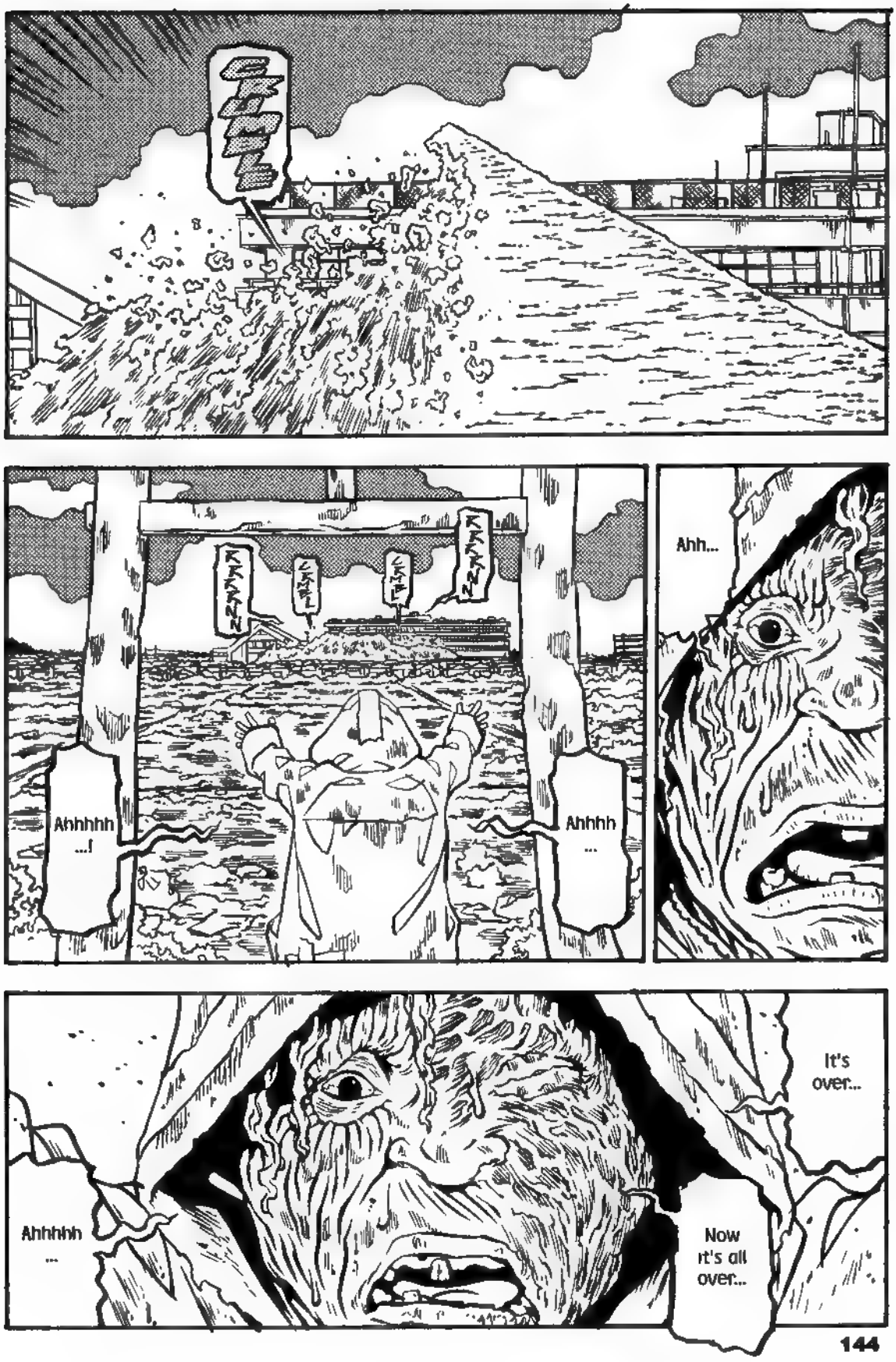
But there's no need to worry.
He can't touch me as long as I stay here.

You've all come back to protect Sayuri, haven't you?

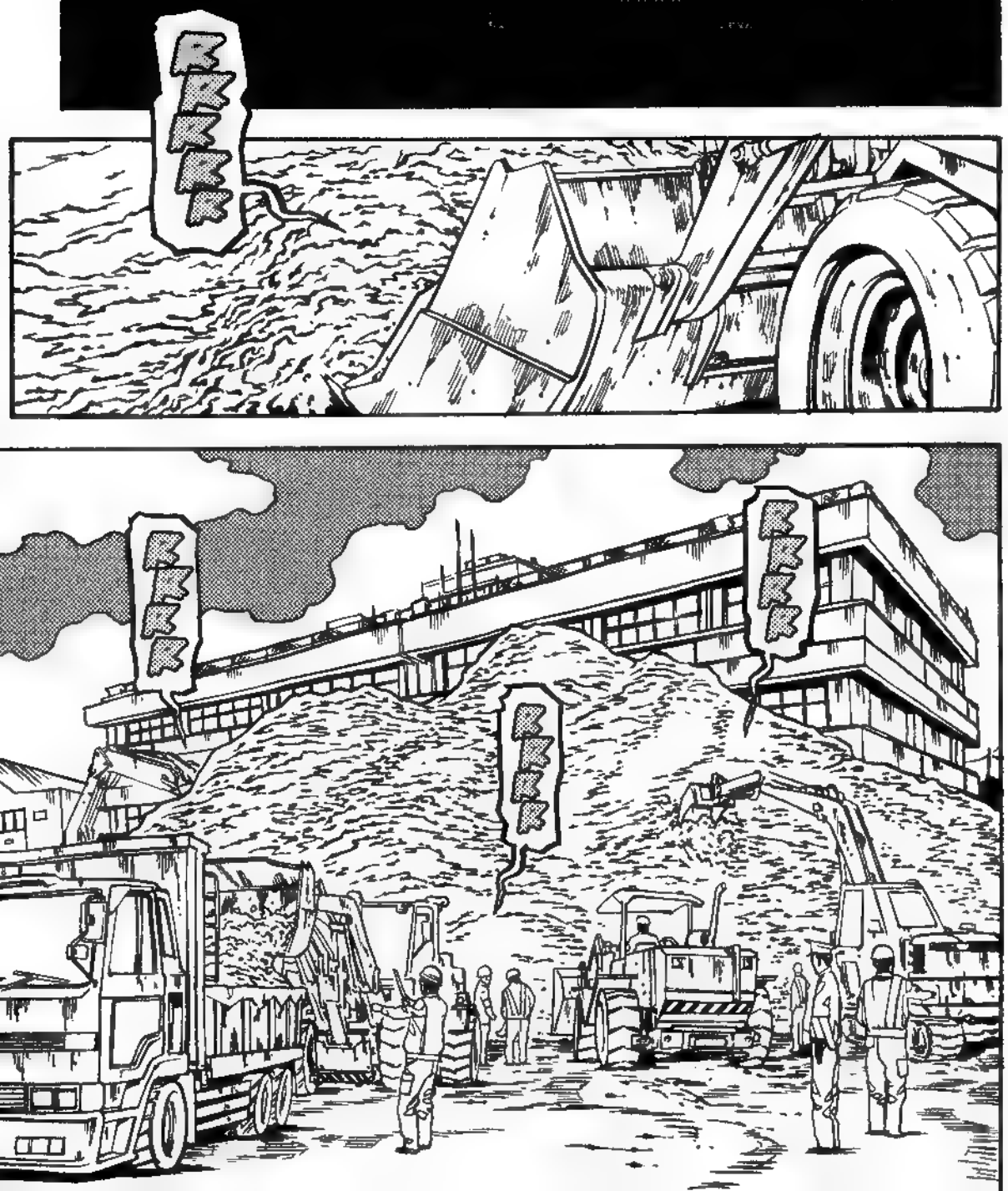



Eek...!

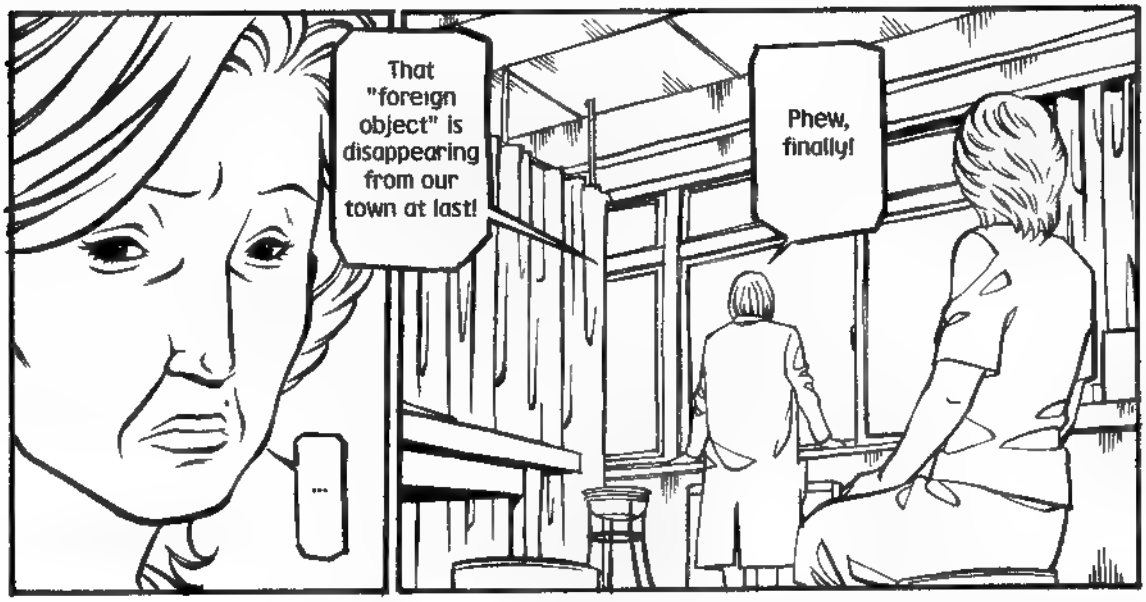

KKKK
KKKNN
KKKNN
KKKNN
KKKNN


GUUU
KAAAN
KAAAN
KAAAN
Ahhhhh ...!
Ahhhh ...
Ahh...
It's over...
Ahhhhh ...
Now it's all over...

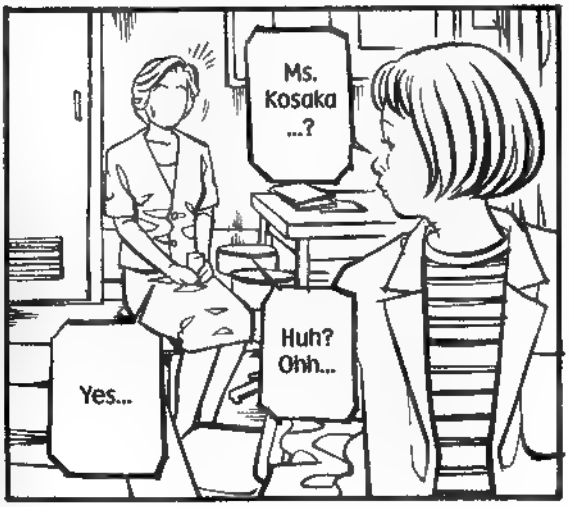
[The Beginning of the End]



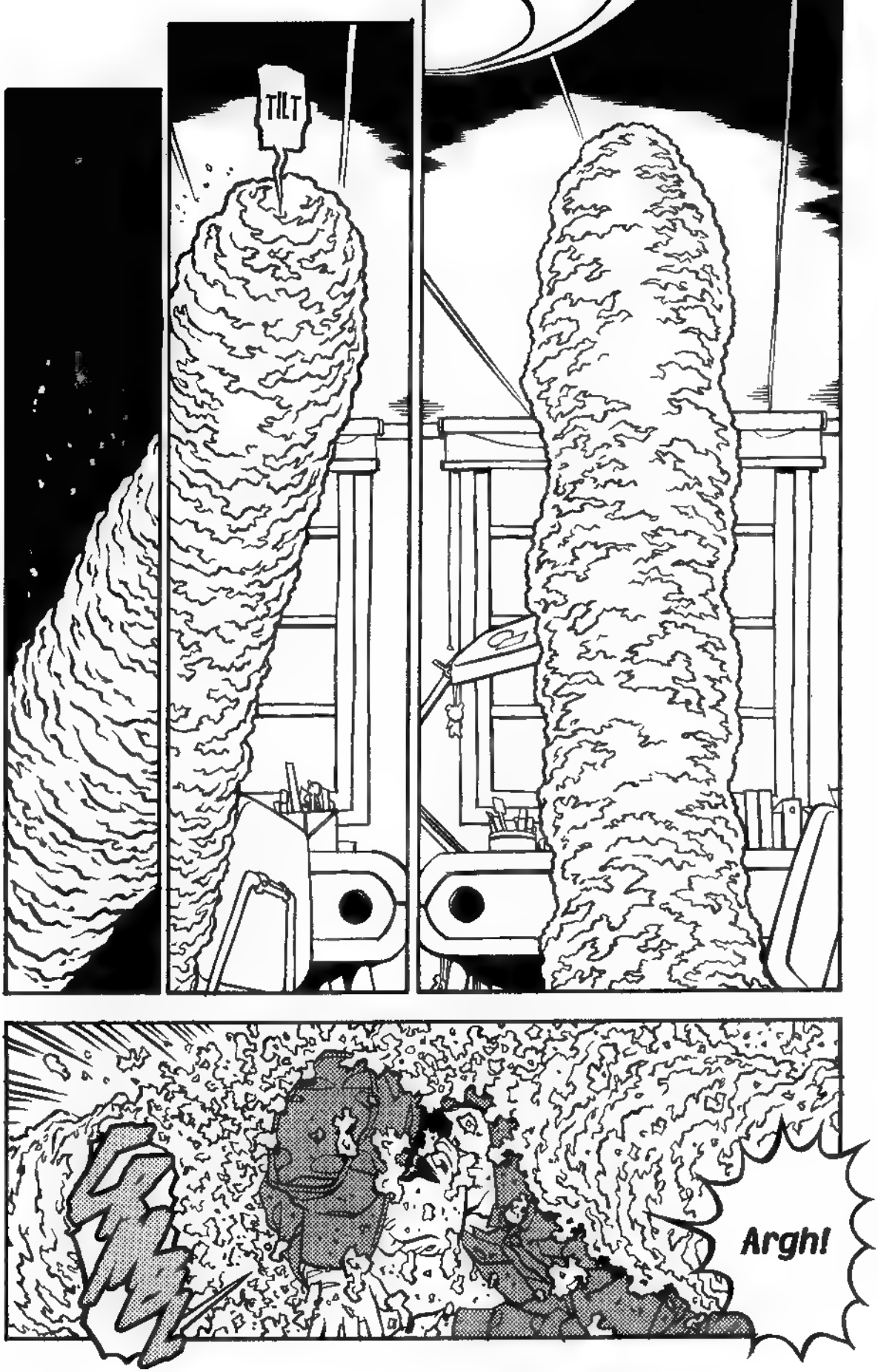
RRRRN
You government guys sure like to take your sweet time!
RRRRN
Finally, huh?!


That "foreign object" is disappearing from our town at last!
...
Phew, finally!

Yes, absolutely ...
RRRR
Let's hope this will get the children to come back to school...
RRRRRN


Ms. Kosaka ...?
Huh? Ohh...
Yes...

KRRRNN
KRRRNN
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING

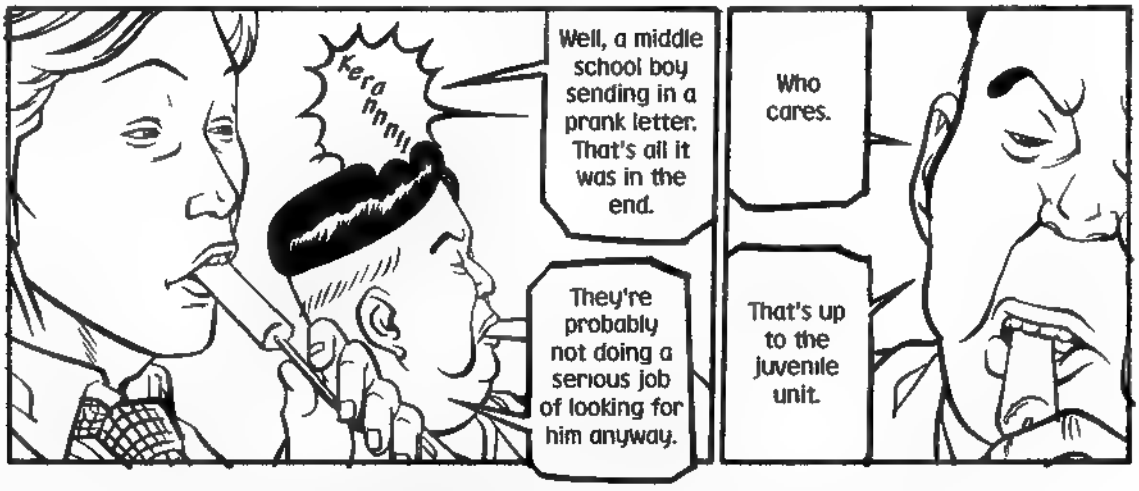

TILT
Argh!

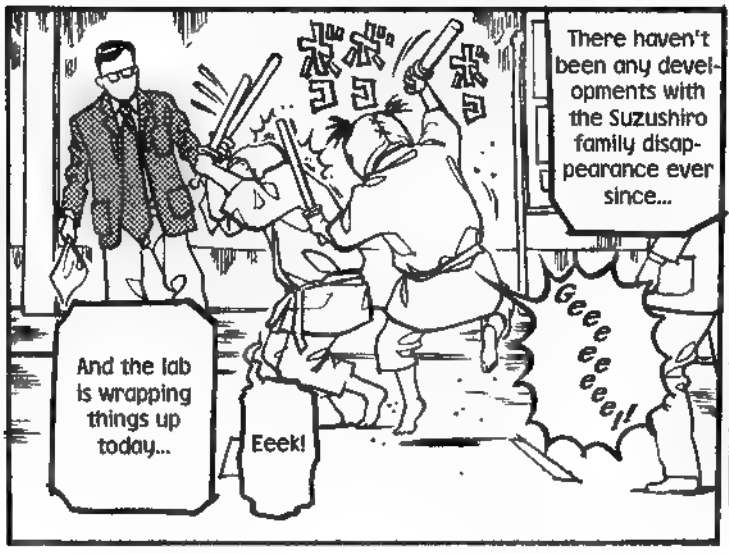
Watch out, you moron!
Phweck! Phweck! Salty!

Sooorry.
Oww! It got into my eyes!
They're burning!
...

Kaneeeeee!!
ボコ
ボボコ
ボコ
Eeeek!
小野田
Onoda
Weenaaaa!!
One point!
WHUP!
Eek!
Eek!
She's sounding like the rightful heir to Bruce Lee.
What a ghastly sight...
Koneeeee!!

Ukyaaaaaa!!
Eek
I wonder if they've been able to track down his whereabouts.
Begin!
It's almost been a month since Kento Miyahara escaped from the police hospital...


Kerooooo!!
Well, a middle school boy sending in a prank letter. That's all it was in the end.
They're probably not doing a serious job of looking for him anyway.
Who cares.
That's up to the juvenile unit.

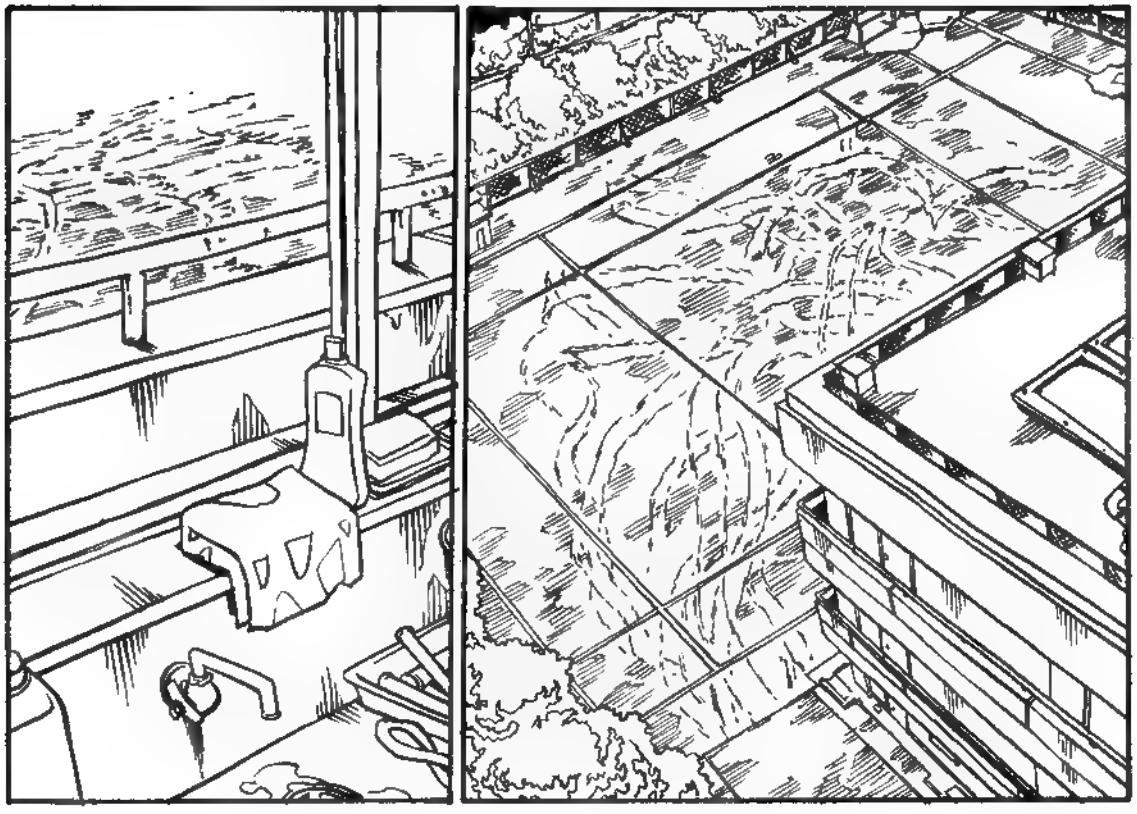

There haven't been any developments with the Suzushiro family disappearance ever since...
Geeeeeeeee!
And the lab is wrapping things up today...
Eeek!

Yowwwwwww!!

It gets annoying.
Don't dwell on it.
CRUNCH
...
It just doesn't seem like a case that needs to be kept under wraps...
How come the higher-ups won't make this a public investigation?
The case that got you transferred over here...?
Was it like this?
Ohh.
Huh?
Try being a bit more sensitive.
Pretty thick-skinned, aren't you?

I don't wanna see her ugly-ass smile.
Let's get outta here.
All of her opponents have been geezers though.
Looks like ugly bitch is our new champion or something.
I-I-I've advanced to the regional tournament!
I-I-I-I did it, Sergeant Yoko!!
Damn...
S-S-S-Sergeant Yoko—!
Yes, sir!
Then let's hurry up and get on to the next...
Now the whole "Soil" thing is behind you, right?
Yeah, yeah...

A-a-and the amazing thing was...!
Y-y-you see, I did some research on my own concerning the rock salt!
I've decided to return to basics!
Ahh?
Thou art brave!
C'mon Ms. Onoda, time for the award ceremony.
S-S-Sergeant Yokoi—!
Yo, sword-master!
Take me to that place from before, Tamura.
Ohh, that place with the really perverted stuff?
Geez...
How long is this heat wave gonna last...?



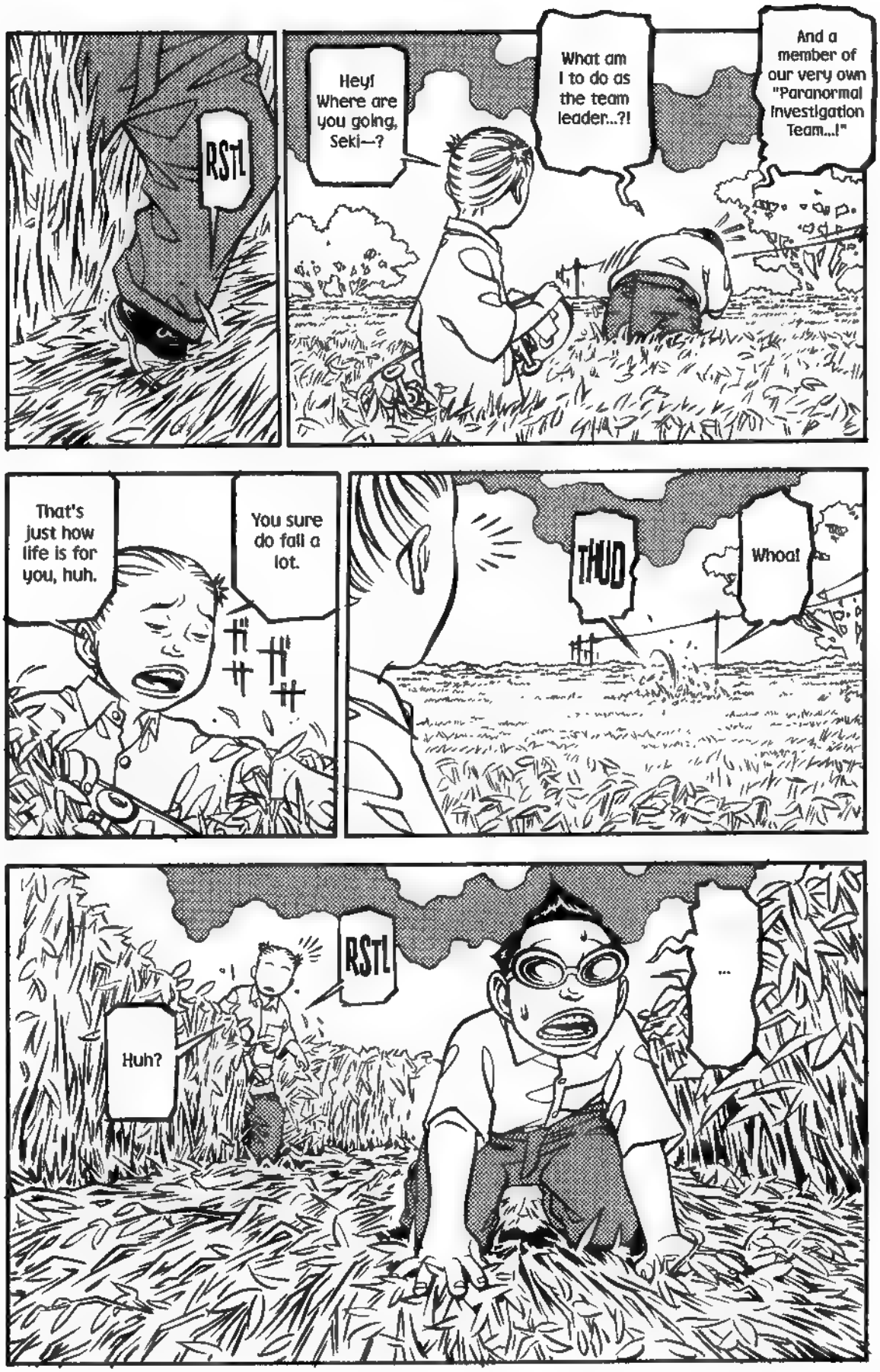
Mystery...
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE

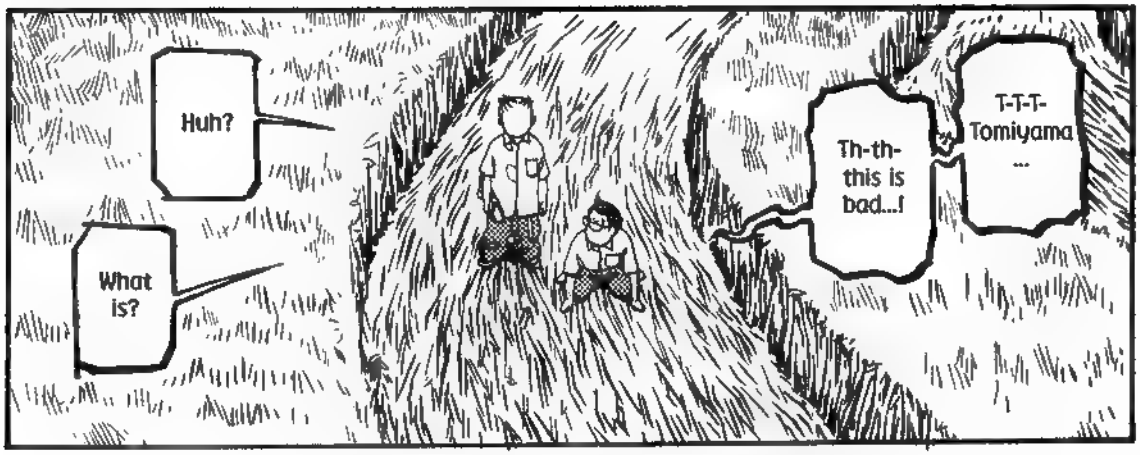
We the "Paranormal Investigation Team" finally have a case on our hands...!
Our suspicions were true! This wasn't an ordinary case after all!
Whoa, you two again...?!
Mr. Tokita —!
The police have given up!
Ouch!
CRASH
I've discovered the identity of the "man with scales!"
See? Right here!
...
I was looking through some literature when I found this...!
Listen, listen!
Just give it up already.
"We...?" I'm not included, am I?
SHock!!!!
THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE PARANORMAL!!
Their secret hideout is said to be located off the coast of Bermuda, and they kidnap sailors who sail through the nearby seas...
SHock! その83
180cm
THIS IS THE FISH ALIEN UF
A hideous body covered with scales...
"The Fish Aliens..."

He was doing some research on the girls' bathroom the other day.
Seki's always thinking about sexual stuff.
Wahhh—!
When children your age get hooked on stuff like that...
Umm, listen...
...it signifies a close connection to sexual curiosity, and...
Hot hot hot!
Wahhh—!
Wahhh—!
Wahhh—!
BUMP
That's why he wants to get X-ray vision.
Whoa!
SPLASH

...
B-be careful, alright...?
AH
H-h-h-hey, Tomi-yama...
Wanna come over to my house and watch some alien vivisection videos...?
Huh? Not really.
L-l-let's just go home, okay?
I do wanna watch that really perverted video from last time, though.
Fine! Just come!
...
Sigh...
I'm not cut out to be a teacher...

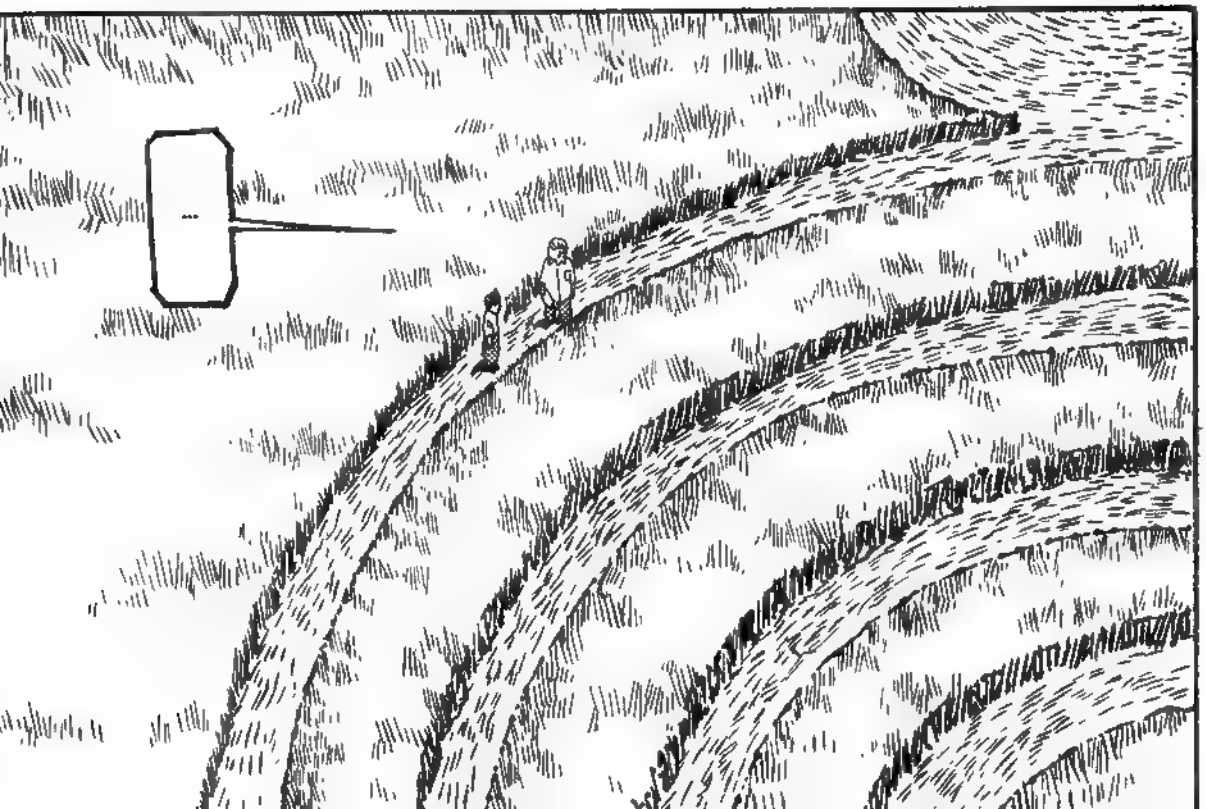
Aren't we gonna go watch perverted videos?
What? What's wrong?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Is Tokita actually a gangster?
Ohh, what was that? A tattoo?
Ahh, geez! Don't you get it?!
Mr. Tokita's arm!
See what?
D-did you see that, Tomiyama ?!
Ahhhhh! How could this beeeee?!
What? What? So the "man with scales" is actually Tokita?
The culprit was here all along...!
Those were "scales!" There's no doubt about it!

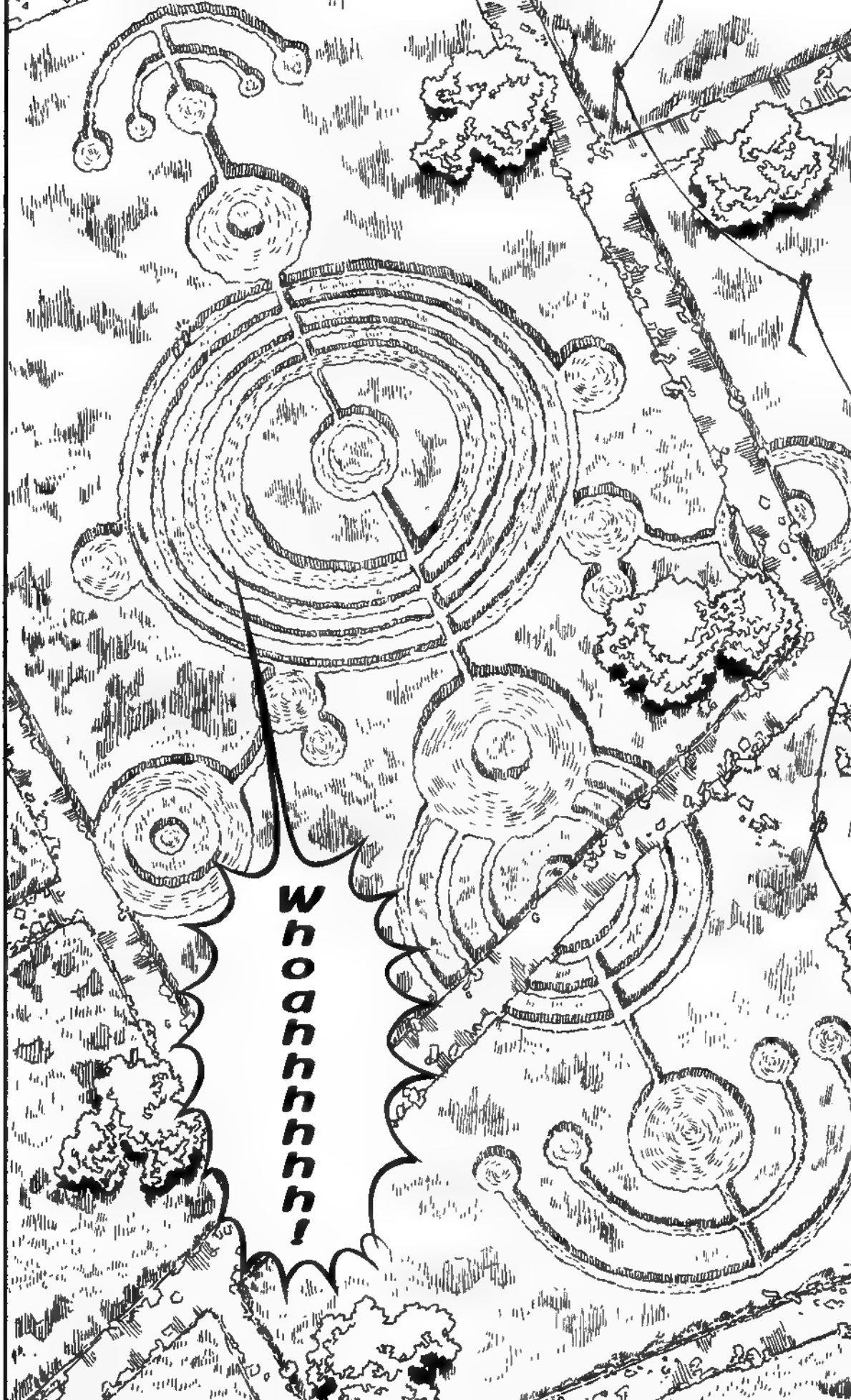

RSTL
Hey! Where are you going, Seki—?
What am I to do as the team leader...?!
And a member of our very own "Paranormal Investigation Team...!"
That's just how life is for you, huh.
You sure do fall a lot.
THUD
Whoa!
RSTL
Huh?
...


Huh?
What is?
Th-th-this is bad...!
T-T-T-Tomiyama...

Huh?
Huuuh?

What?
What?
Ahh, geez! Don't you get it?!


...

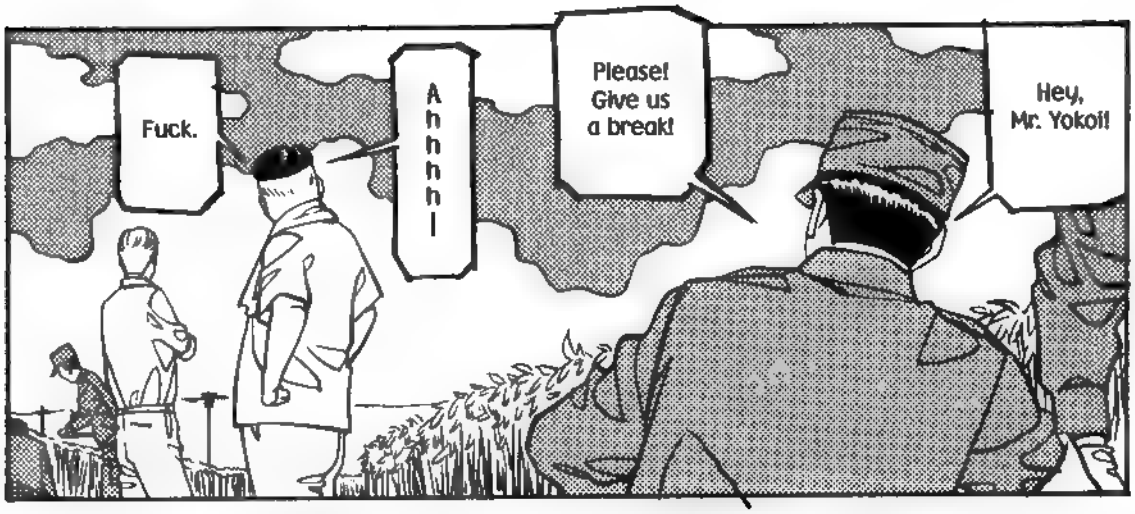

Whoahhhhh!

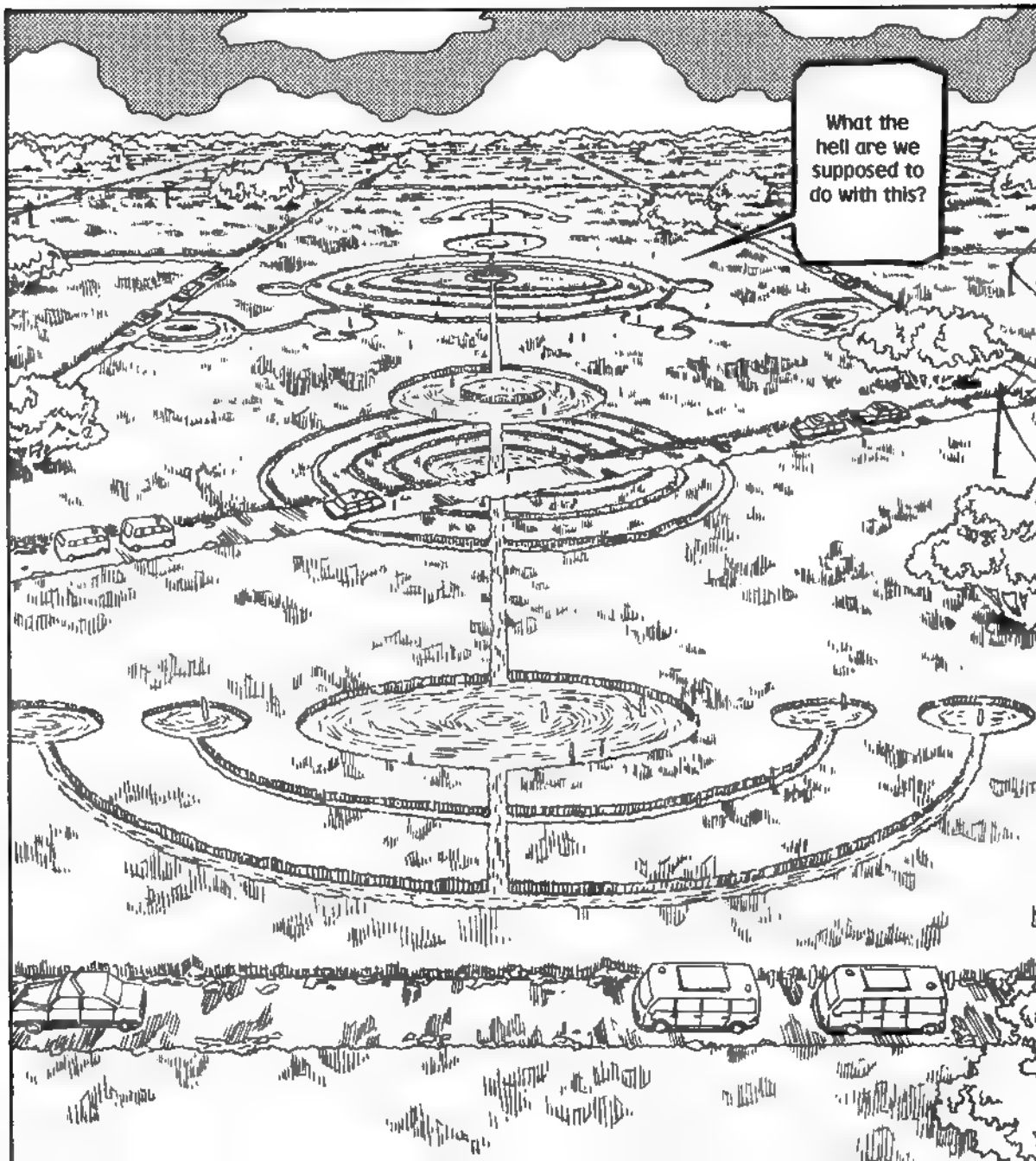
SOIL

Block 2-1 [End]

SOIL
Block 2-2 [I've Got You Now]

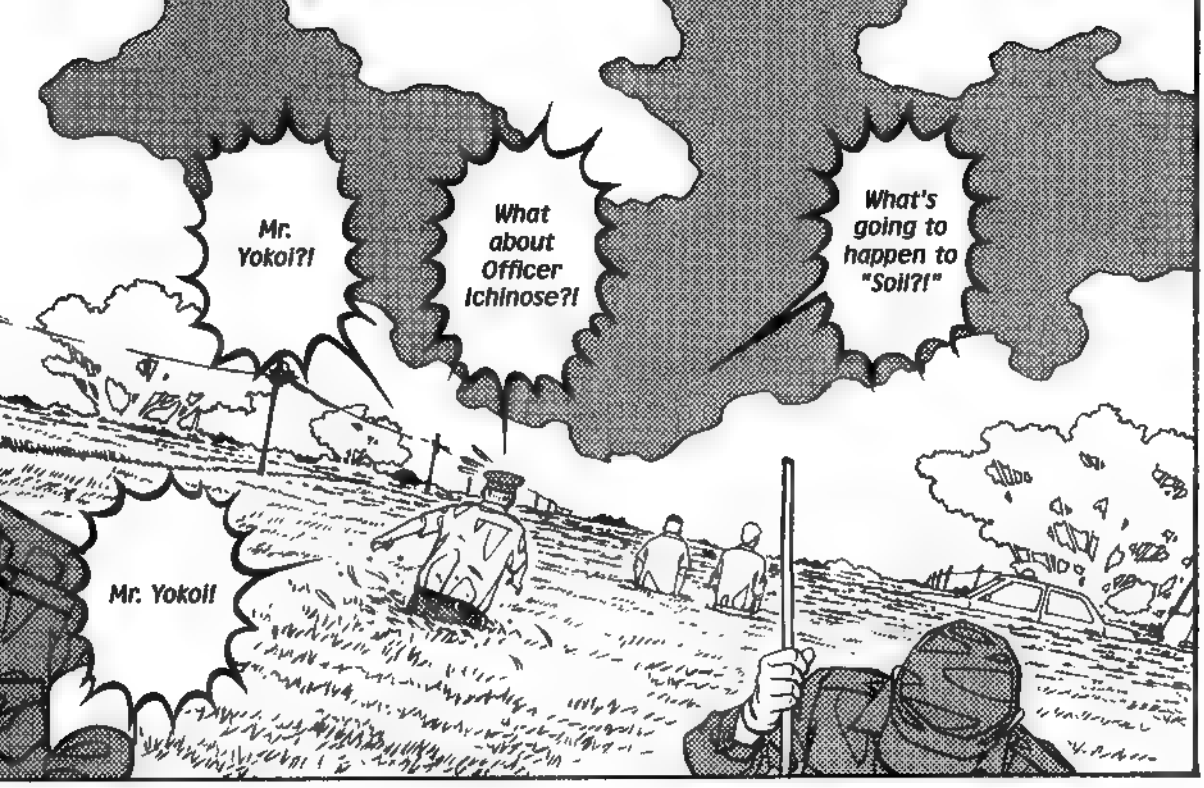
Kahhh!
BLOCK 2-2
Thoof!


Fuck.
Ahhhh!
Please! Give us a break!
Hey, Mr. Yokoi!

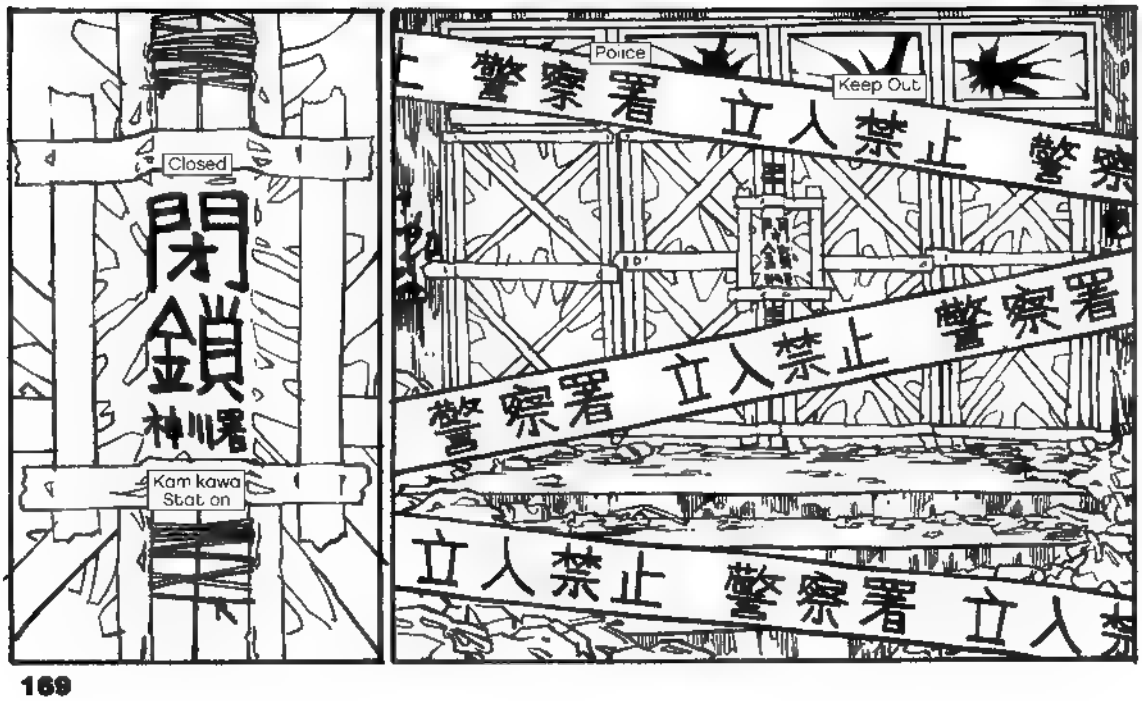

What the hell are we supposed to do with this?

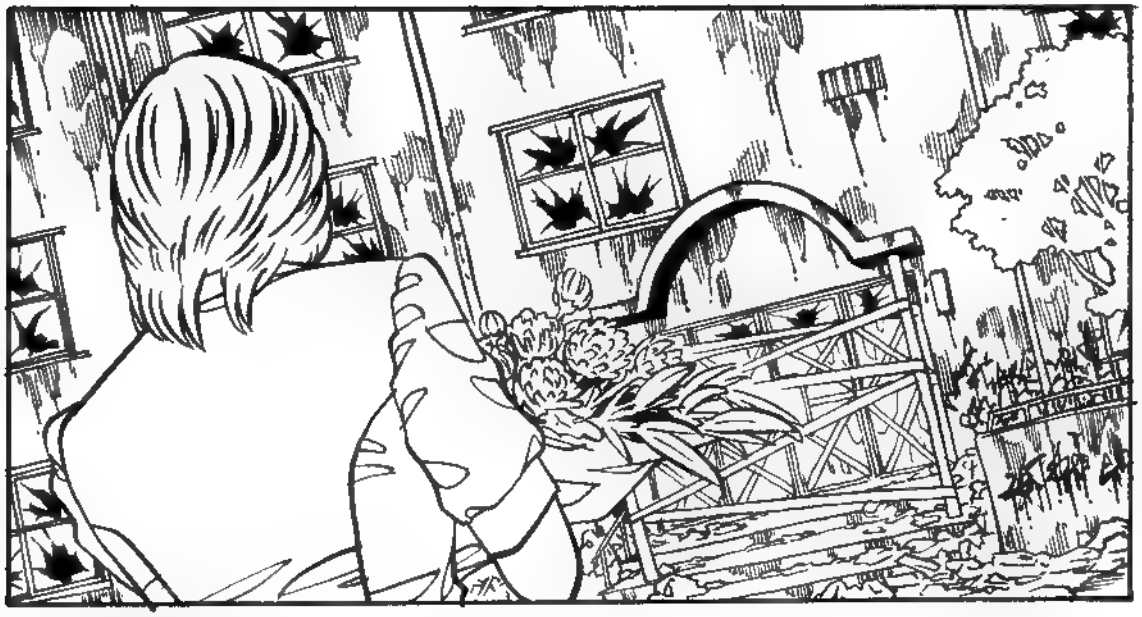
Ahem! Excuse me, sir!
Eat some-place else!
You too, Mr. Tamura!
Really. These things keep coming up right and left...
The town is being attacked by aliens, Mr. Detective!
These boys were the ones who called in...
Take a look, Mr. Yokoi.
They're really close by!
Not again...
And we've finally discovered their true identity! You see...

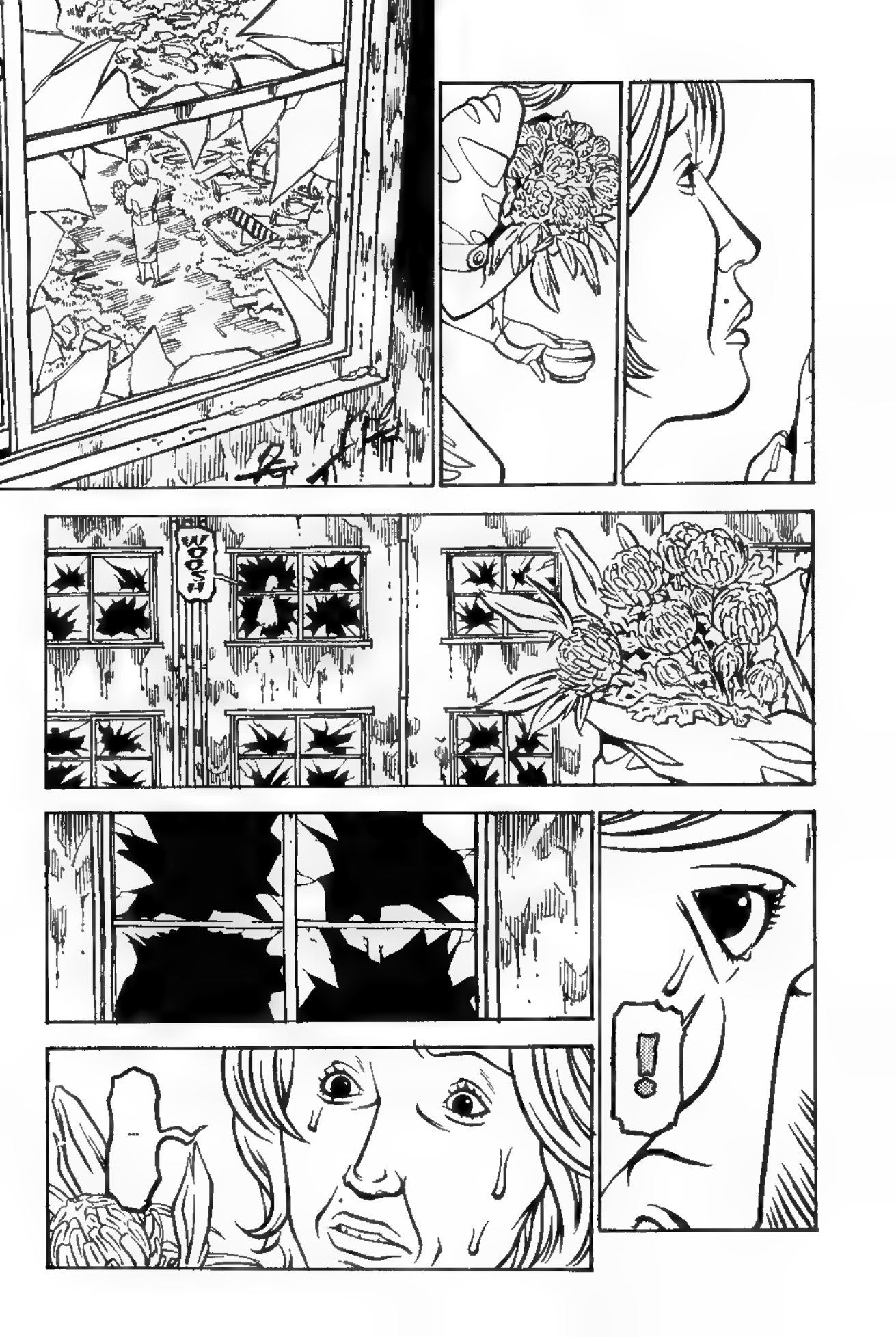
Multiple ones.
Sneaker prints.
...about whether this has any connection to the disappearance of the Suzushiros or not...?
U-um, Mr. Yokoi...? Shouldn't we be thinking...
Sir?
Katakuri.
If you see any aliens wearing sneakers, give 'em the death penalty.
RSTL
RSTL
Huh? She was here just a moment ago...
Where's Onoda?
Um, Mr. Yokoi!
You're not planning on turning this into a cold case, are you...?!

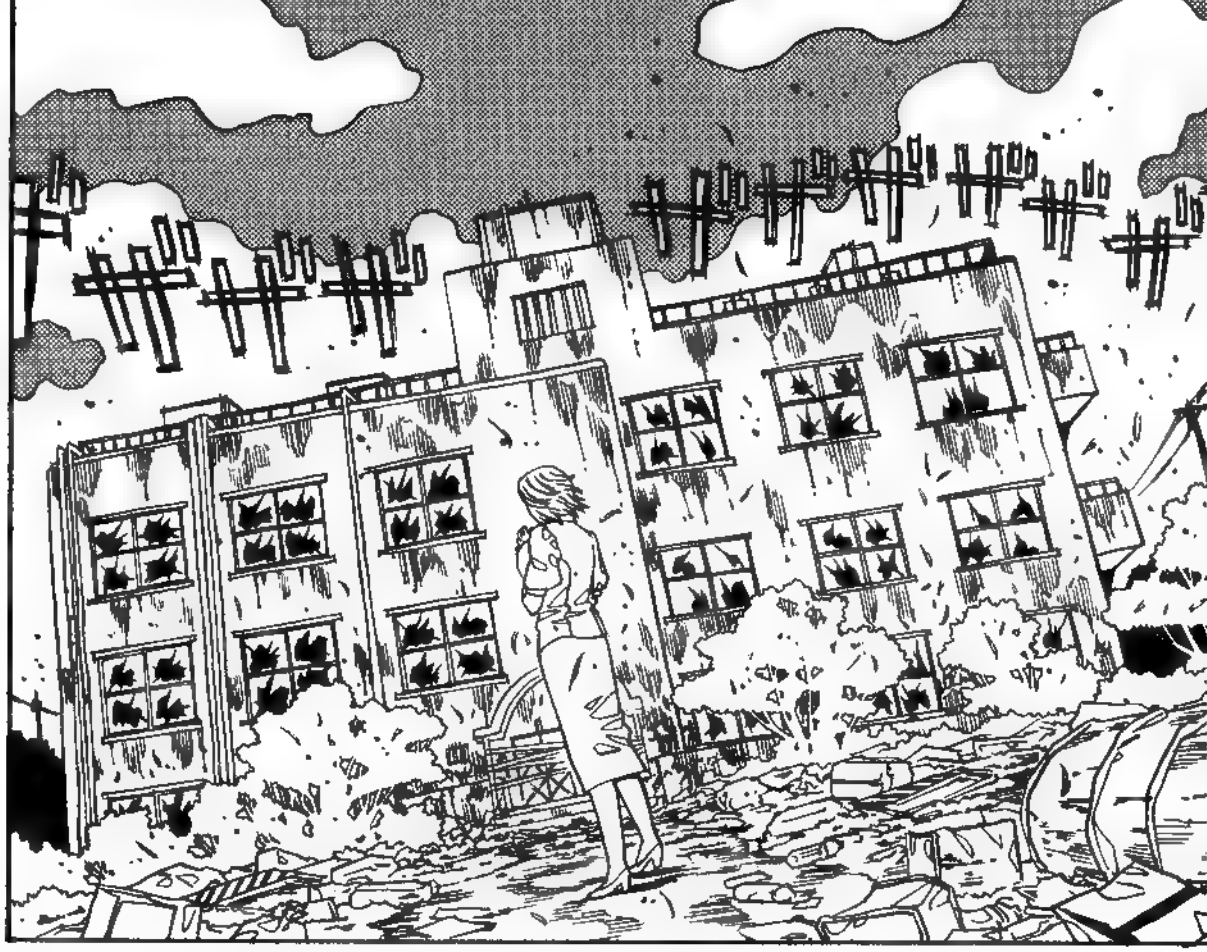


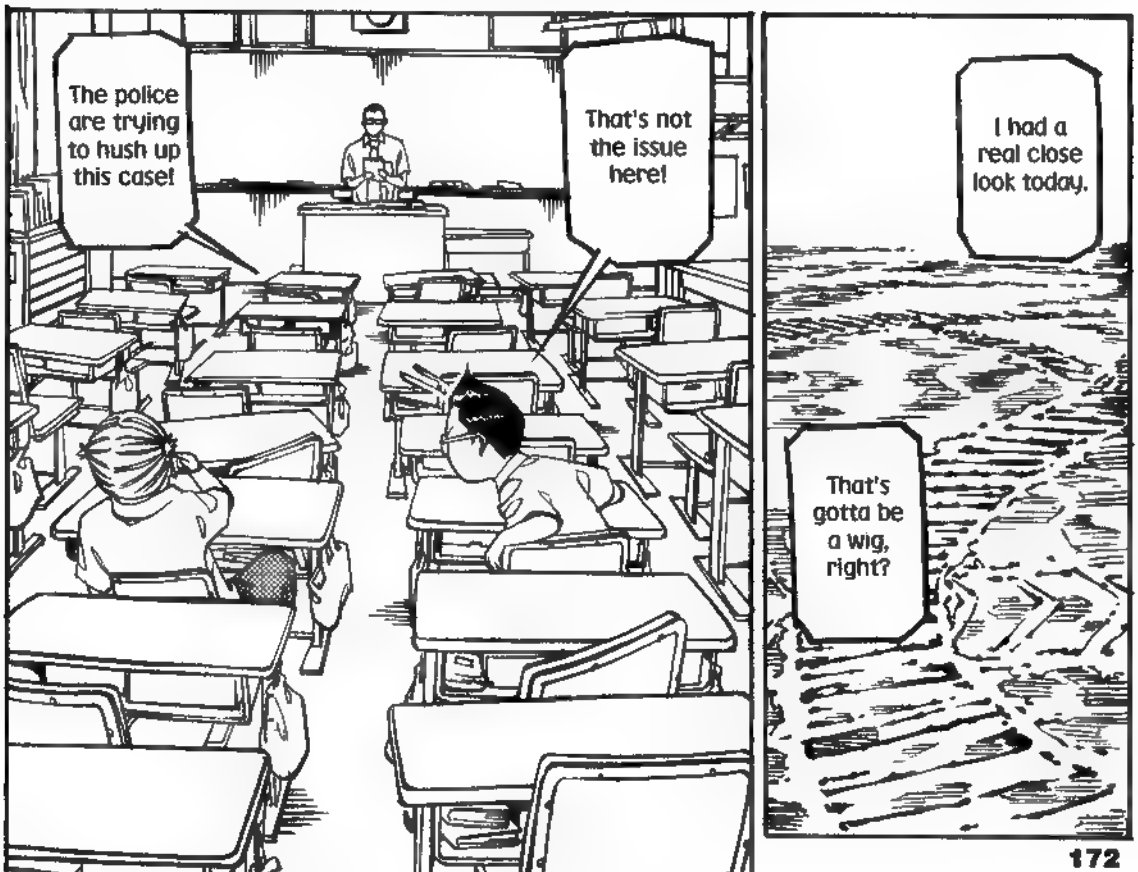
[I've Got You Now]



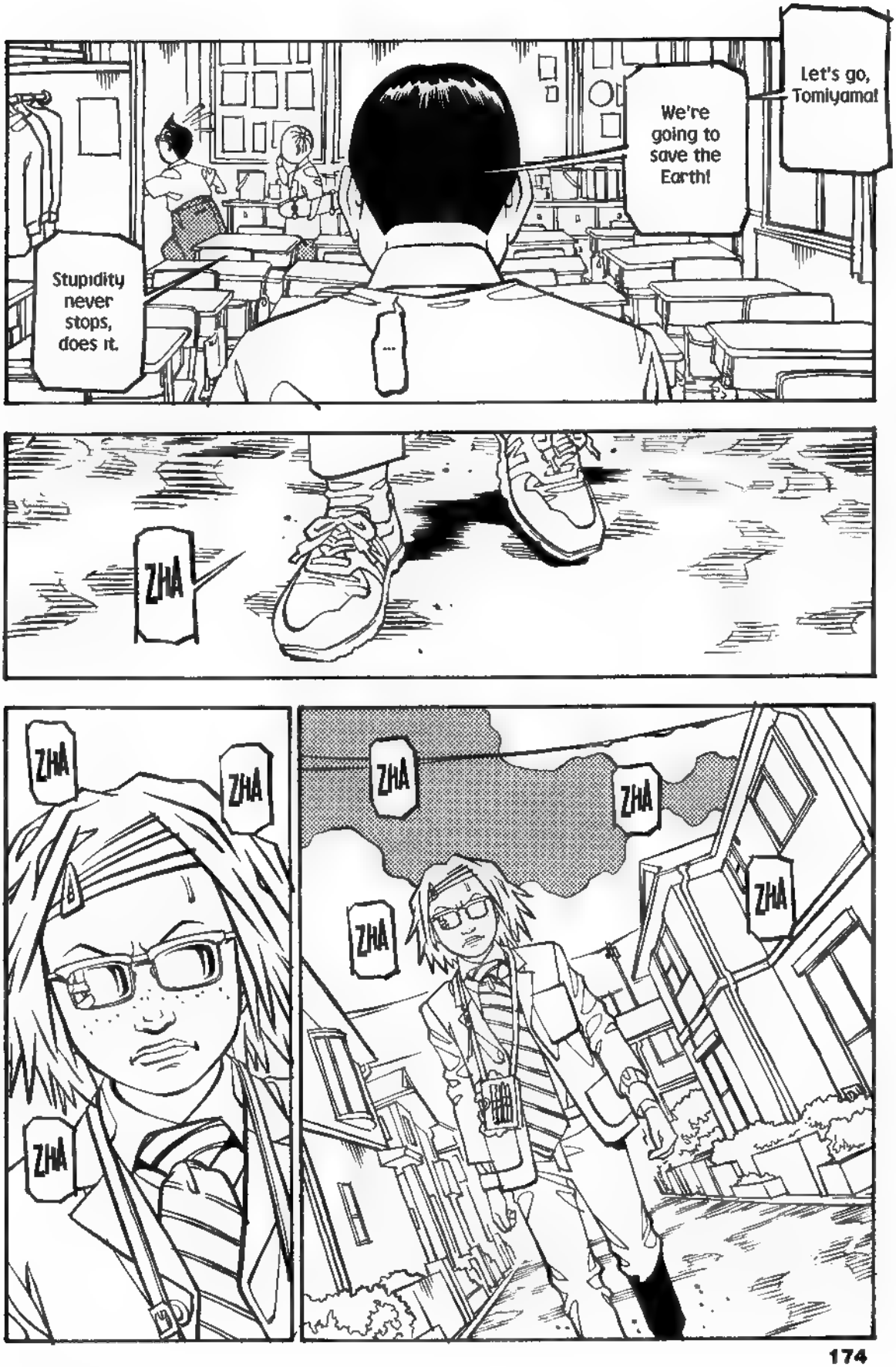



WOOSH
!

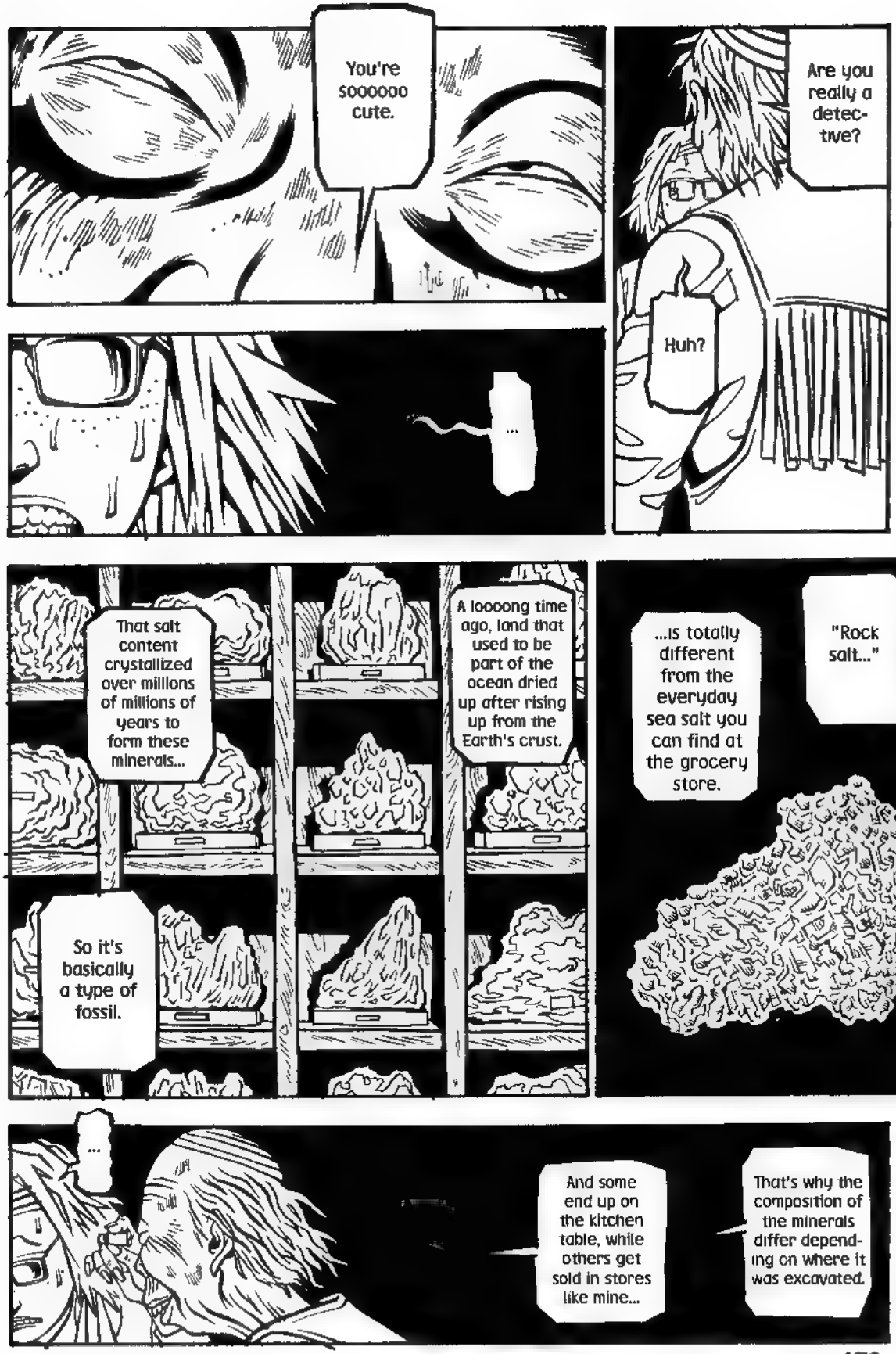


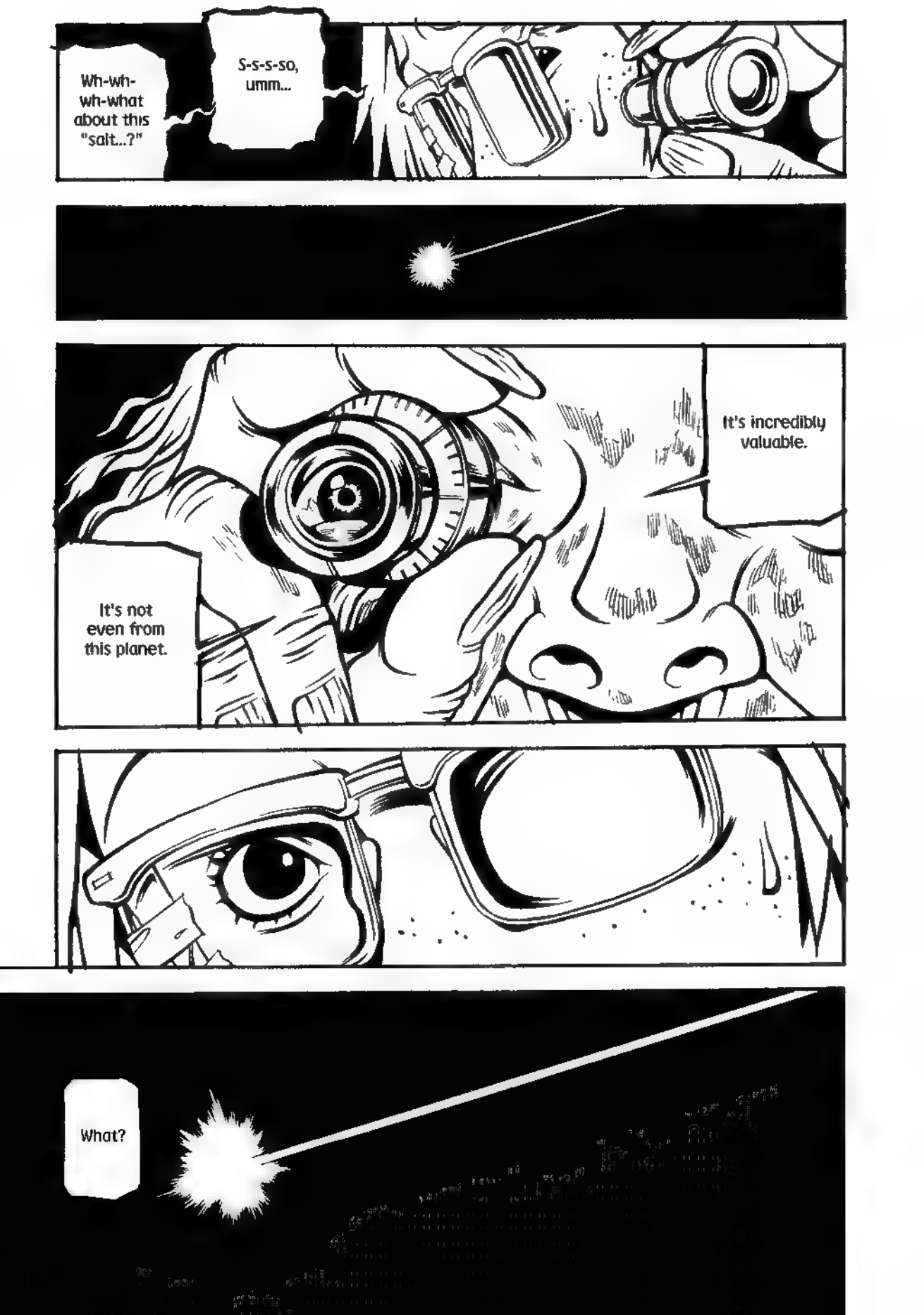

The police are trying to hush up this case!
That's not the issue here!
I had a real close look today.
That's gotta be a wig, right?

Then what about the sneaker prints?
They're trying to cover up the existence of the aliens!
But how are you gonna catch Tokita?
He's an alien, right? What are you gonna do if he transforms?
Aliens can wear shoes too!
Umm ...
I'm sorta having a class here...
Weakness ?
We discovered his weakness yesterday, remember?!
Geez, you're so slow, Tomiyama!

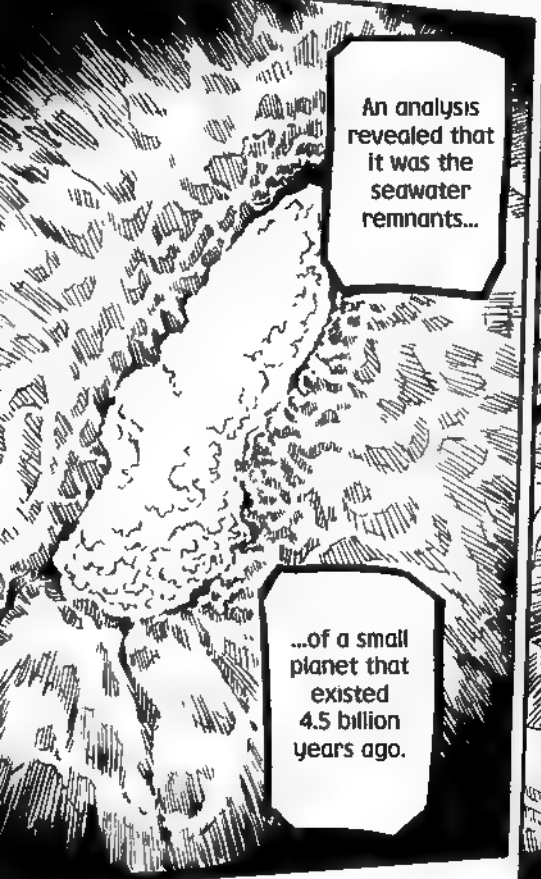

Let's go, Tomiyama!
We're going to save the Earth!
...
Stupidity never stops, does it.
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA

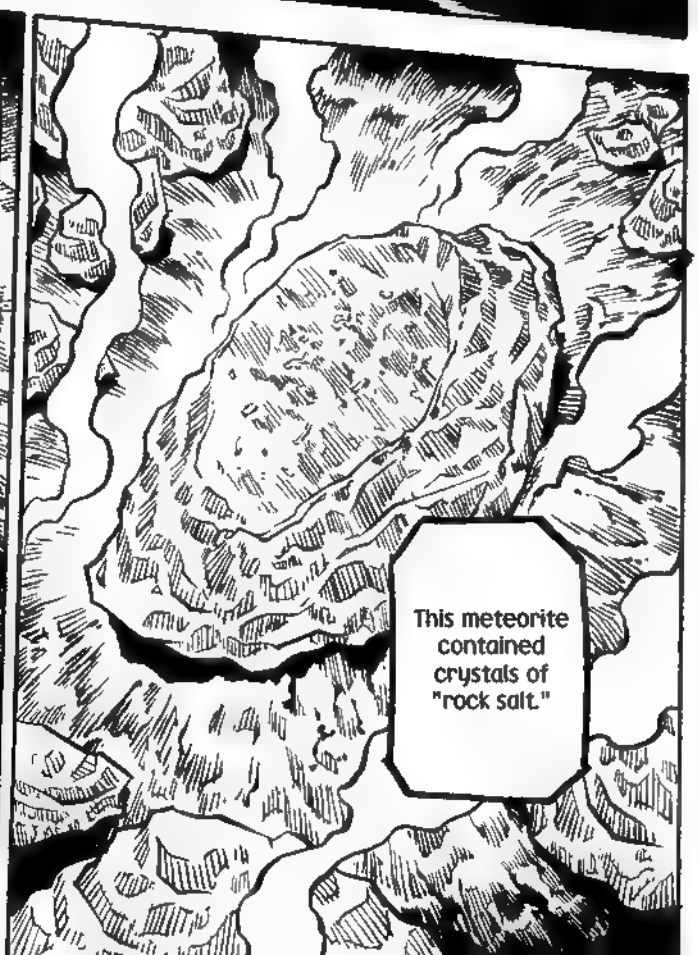
Ohh, that thing?
A-a-a-a-and...
I checked it out for you.
Th-th-th-the result...?
Hmm...
GLANCE
I-i-it's confi-dential...
Th-th-that's a little...
Where'd you find it?
This "salt?"


You're soooooo cute.
Are you really a detective?
Huh?
...
That salt content crystallized over millions of millions of years to form these minerals...
A loooong time ago, land that used to be part of the ocean dried up after rising up from the Earth's crust.
So it's basically a type of fossil.
"Rock salt..."
...is totally different from the everyday sea salt you can find at the grocery store.
...
And some end up on the kitchen table, while others get sold in stores like mine...
That's why the composition of the minerals differ depending on where it was excavated.

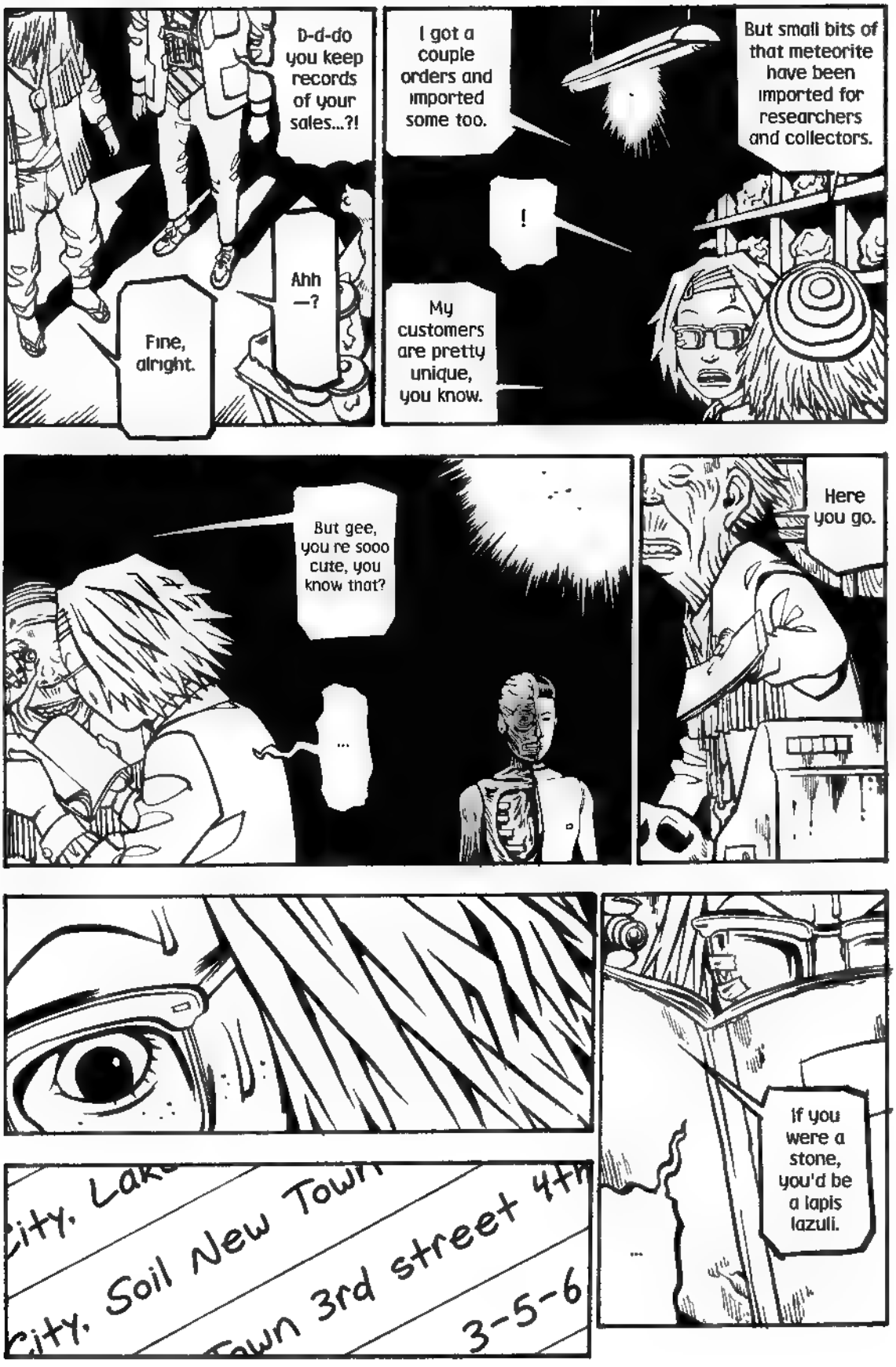

Wh-wh-wh-what about this "salt...?"
S-s-s-so, umm...
It's incredibly valuable.
It's not even from this planet.
What?

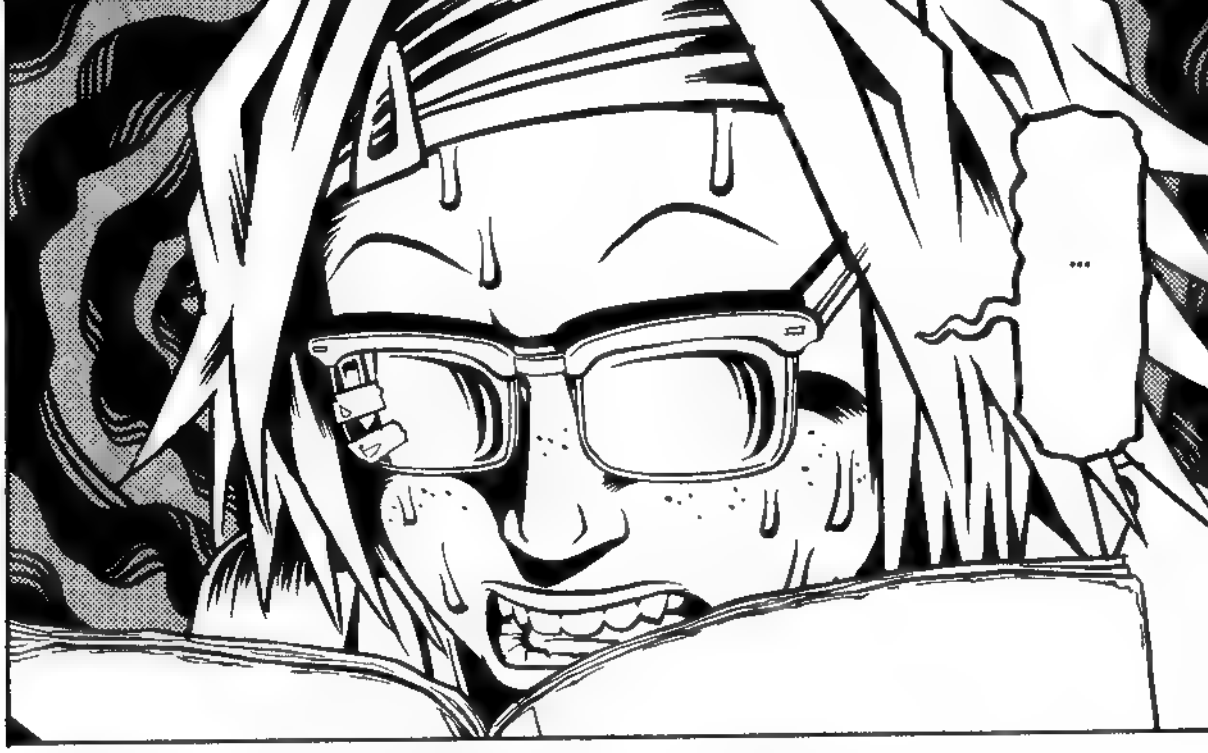
In 1998, a meteorite landed in Zag, Morocco.
They called it the Zag meteorite.


An analysis revealed that it was the seawater remnants...
...of a small planet that existed 4.5 billion years ago.

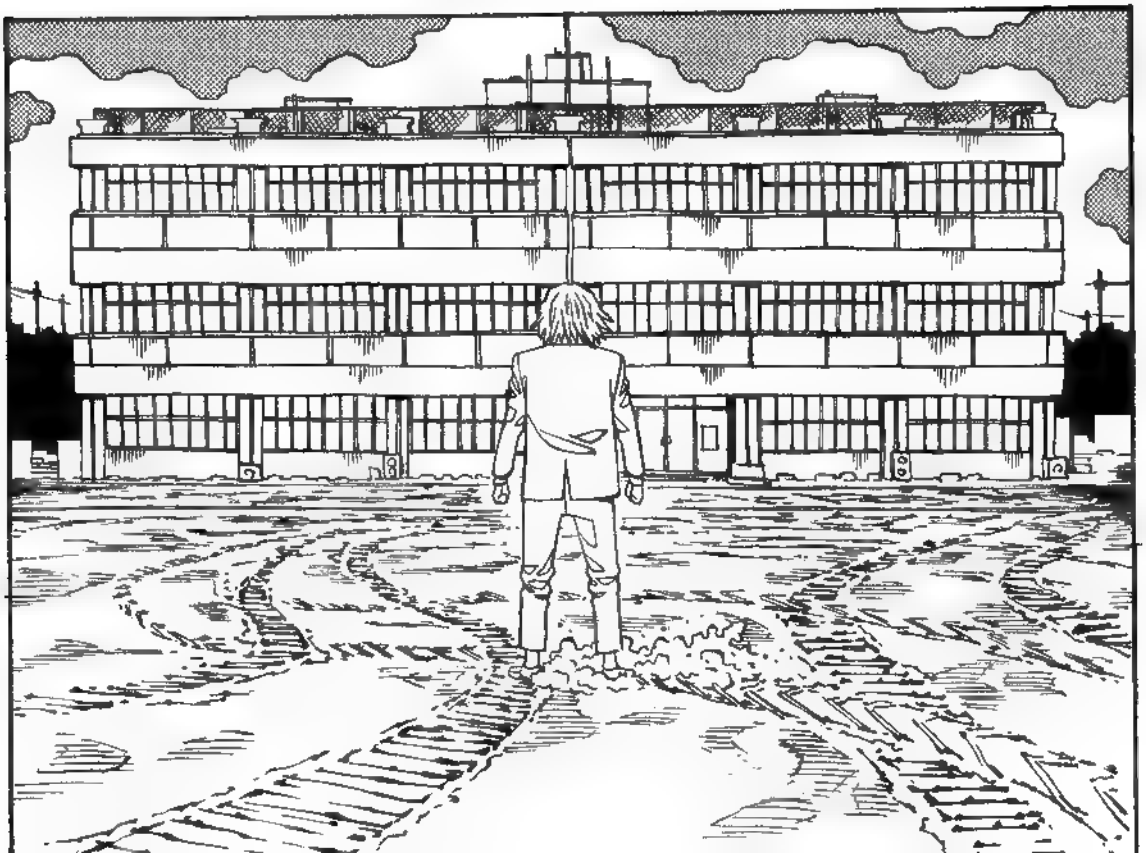

This meteorite contained crystals of "rock salt."

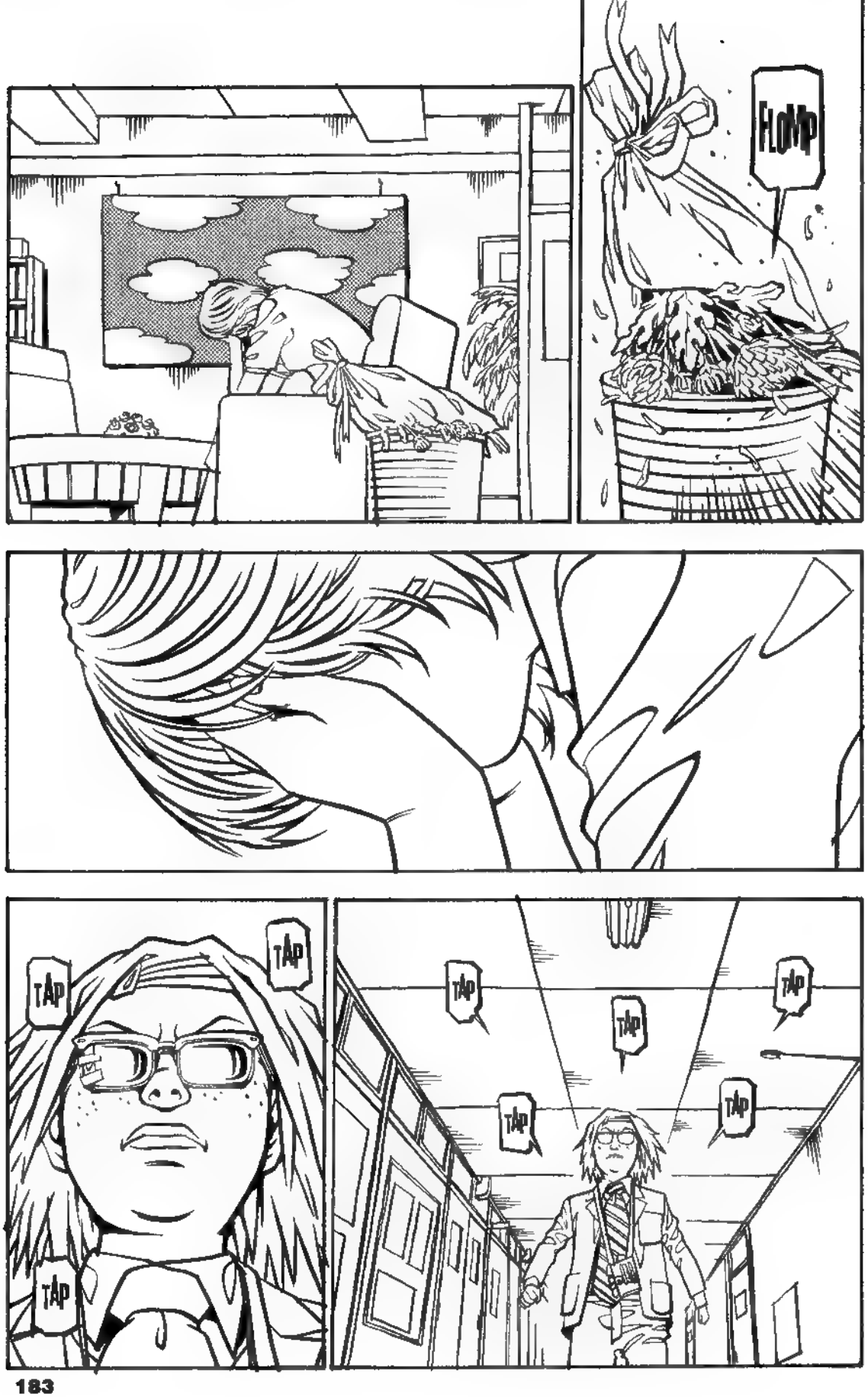
S-s-s-so th-th-th-that m-m-means...
Th-th-this i-i-i-is th-th-th-that...
So... S-s-so, umm...
C-c-could large quantities of this ever be found in a residential area somewhere...?
Ahh?
No doubt about it.
This thing's got two of the oldest minerals in the solar system, Xenon 129 and Argon 40.
...
How could something that crazy ever happen?!
You're cute, but you're not very bright, are you?

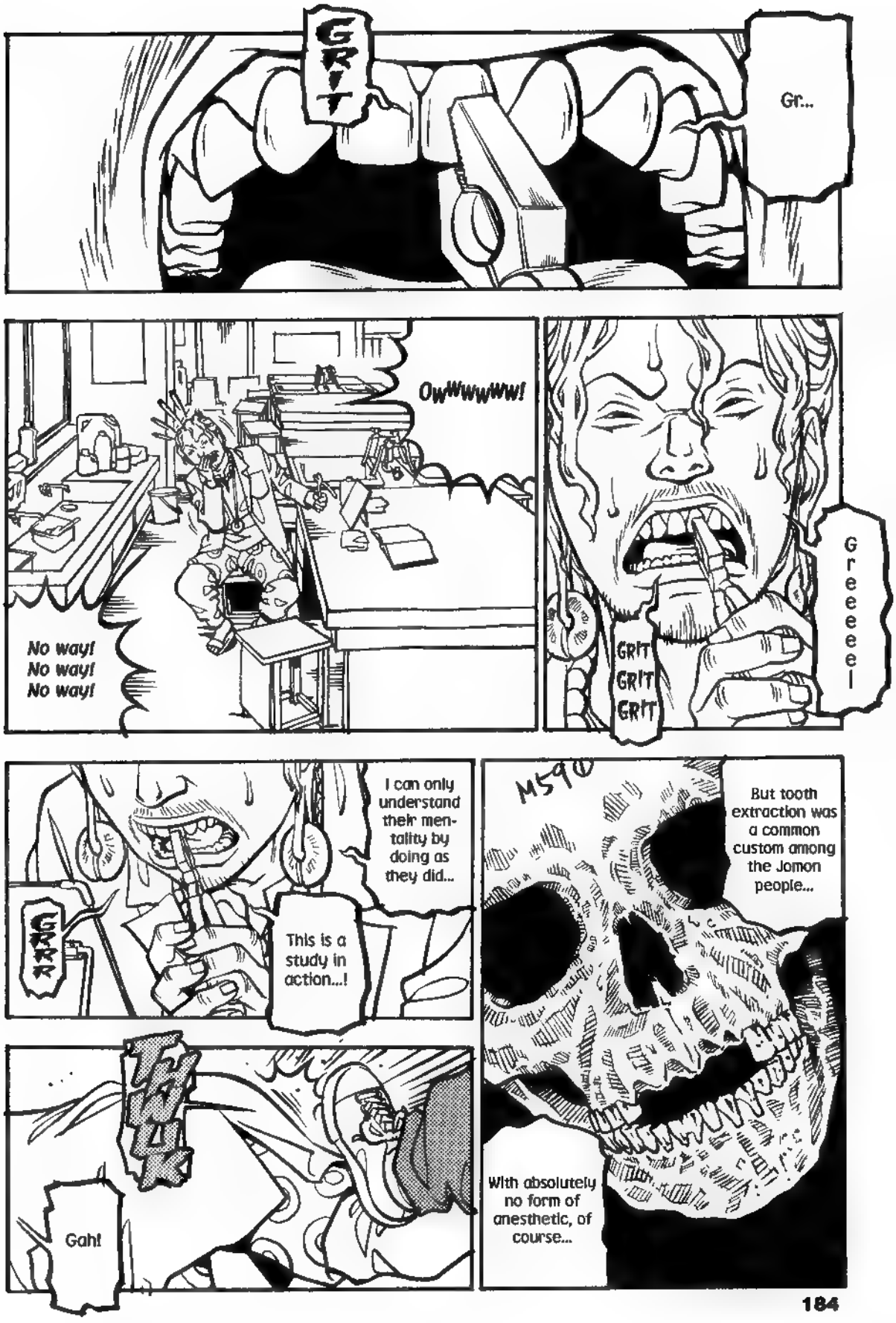

D-d-do you keep records of your sales...?!
Ahh —?
Fine, alright.
I got a couple orders and imported some too.
But small bits of that meteorite have been imported for researchers and collectors.
!
My customers are pretty unique, you know.
But gee, you're sooo cute, you know that?
...
Here you go.
If you were a stone, you'd be a lapis lazuli.
...
3-5-6

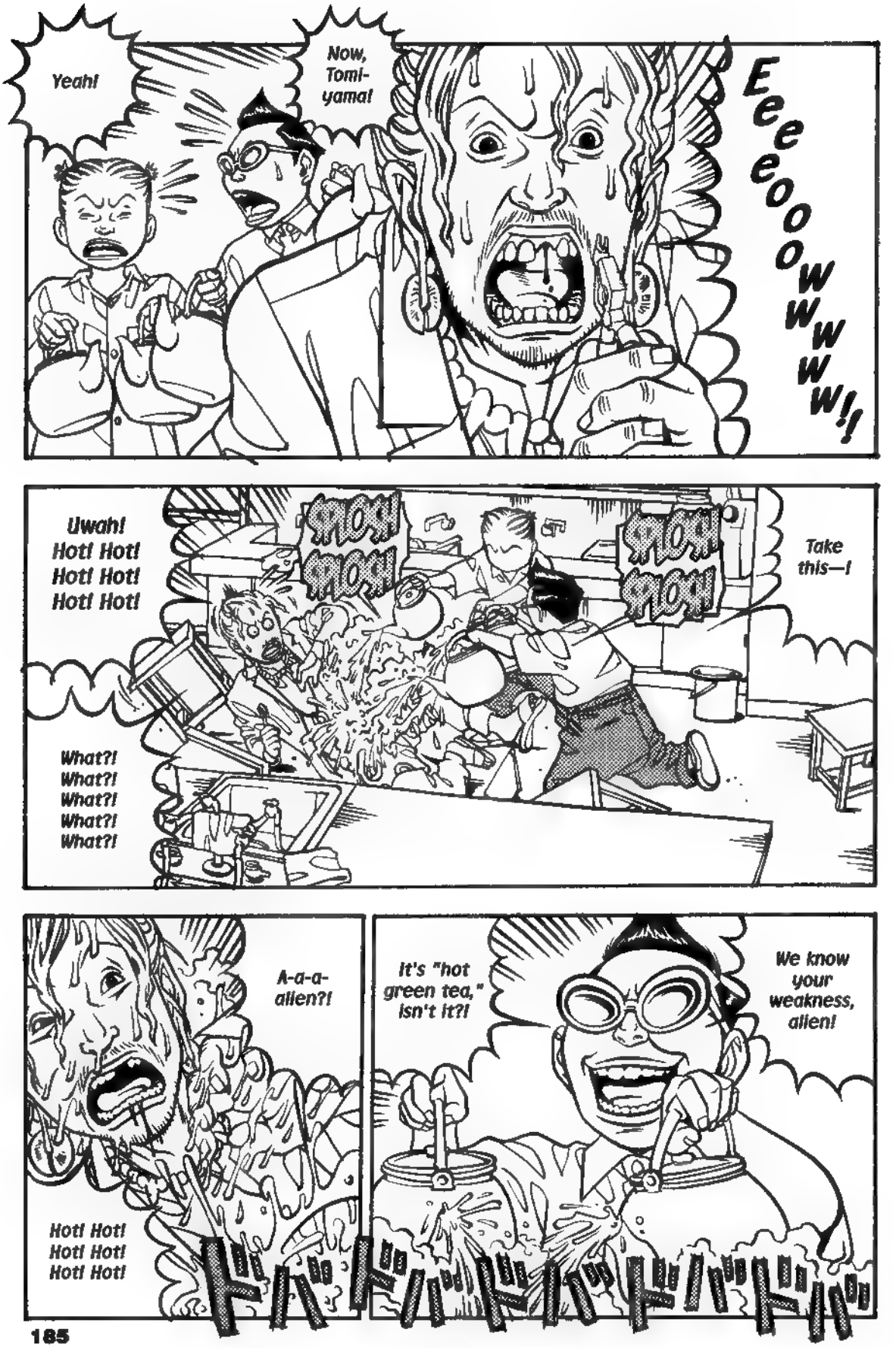

...

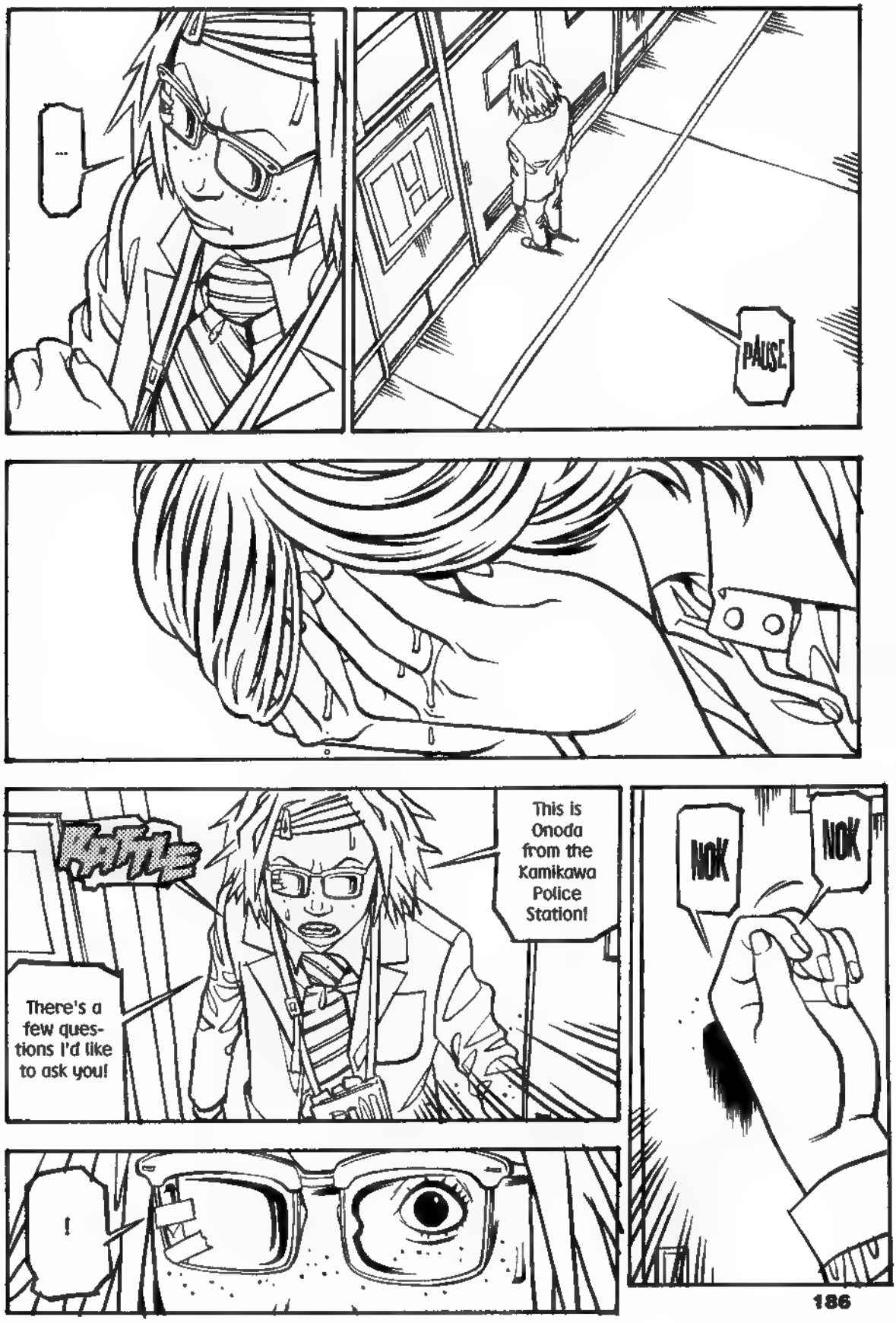
ZHA

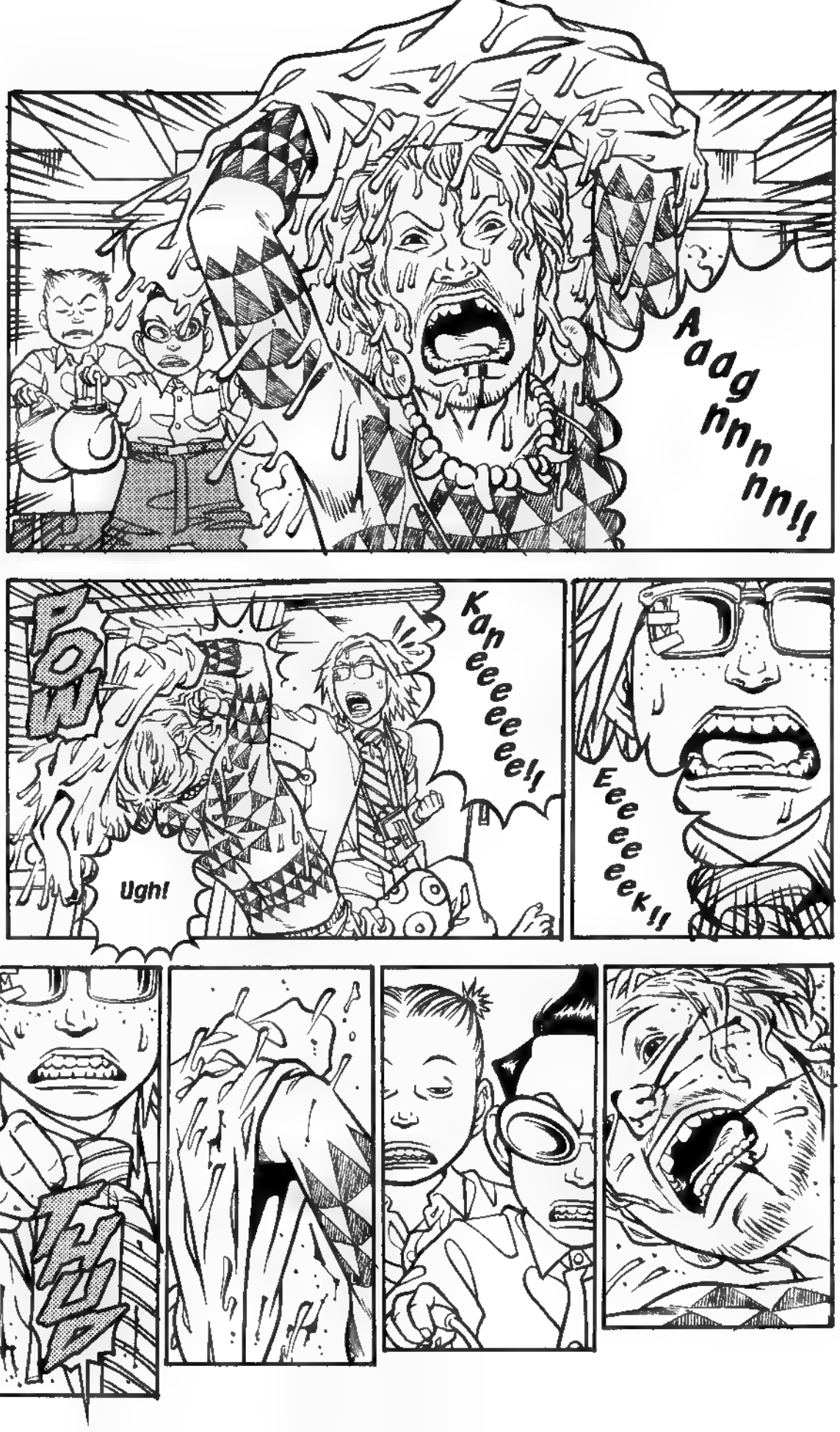



FLOMP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP


GRIT
Gr...
Owwwwww!
No way!
No way!
No way!
GRIT
GRIT
GRIT
Greeeeel
GRIT
I can only understand their mentality by doing as they did...
This is a study in action...!
M590
But tooth extraction was a common custom among the Jomon people...
With absolutely no form of anesthetic, of course...
THUNK
Gah!


Yeah!
Now, Tomi-yama!
Eeeeoooowwwww!!
Uwah! Hot! Hot! Hot! Hot! Hot!
SPLOSH!
SPLOSH!
SPLOSH!
SPLOSH!
Take this—!
What?! What?! What?! What?! What?!
A-a-a-alien?!
It's "hot green tea," isn't it?!
We know your weakness, alien!
Hot! Hot! Hot! Hot! Hot!
トハッ トハッ トハッ トハッ トハッ


...
PAUSE
FATTLE
This is Onoda from the Kamikawa Police Station!
There's a few questions I'd like to ask you!
!
NOK
NOK

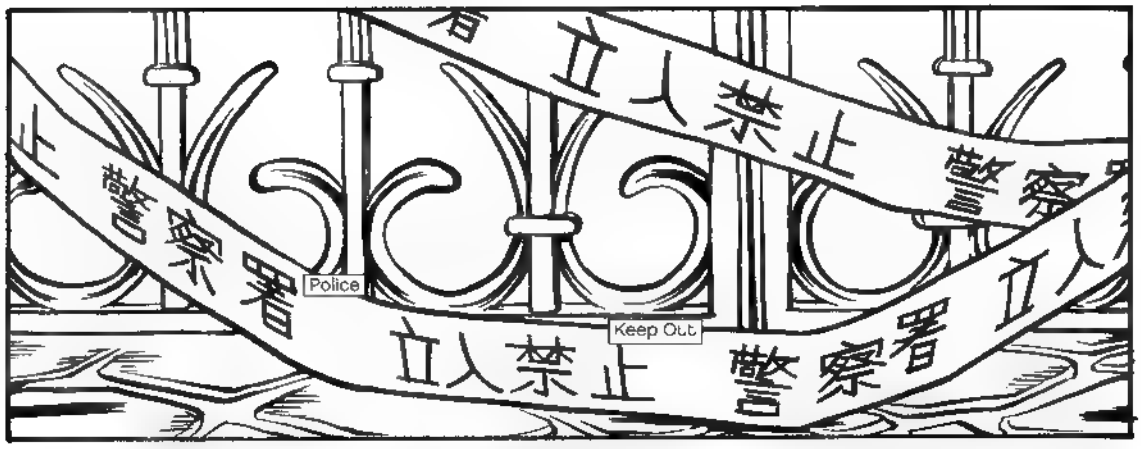

Aaagnnnnn!!
FOH
Ugh!
Kaneeeeee!!
Eeeeeeeek!!
THUD

I've got you now!
...
Fish Alien!
... Th-
The "man with scales...?!"

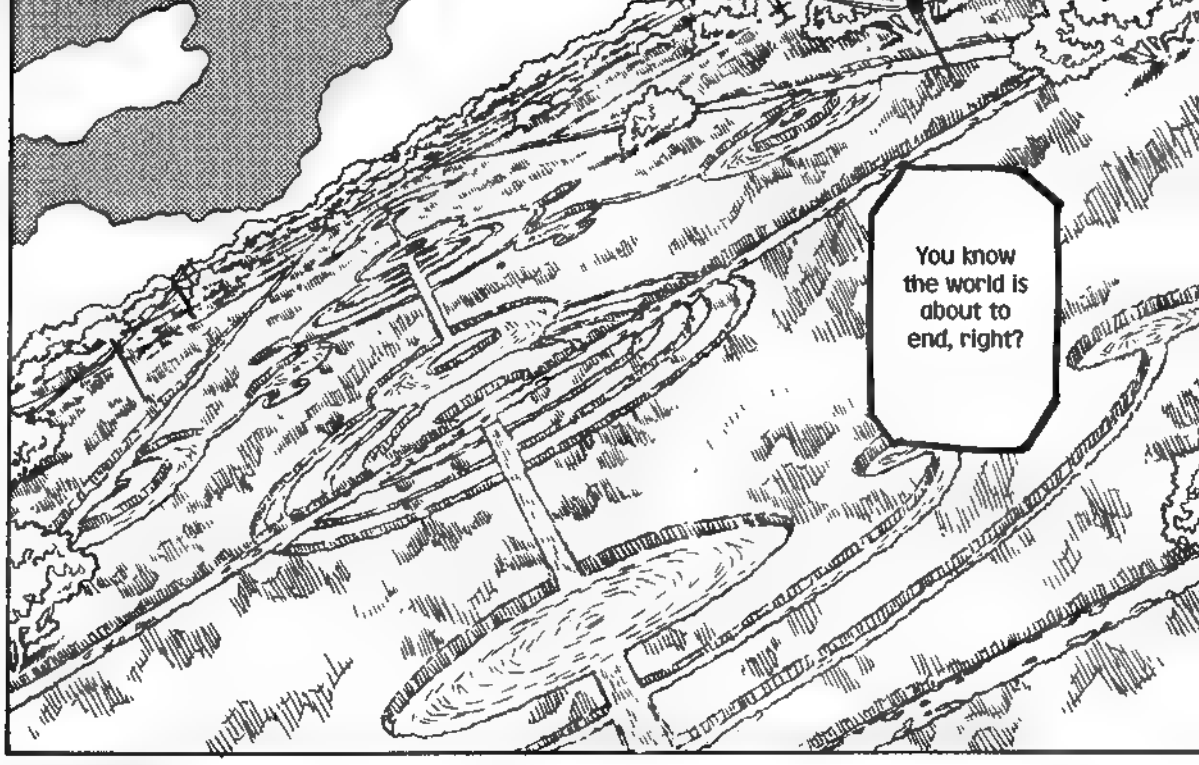
SOIL

Block 2-2 [End]

SOIL
Block 2-3 [The Second Utensil]

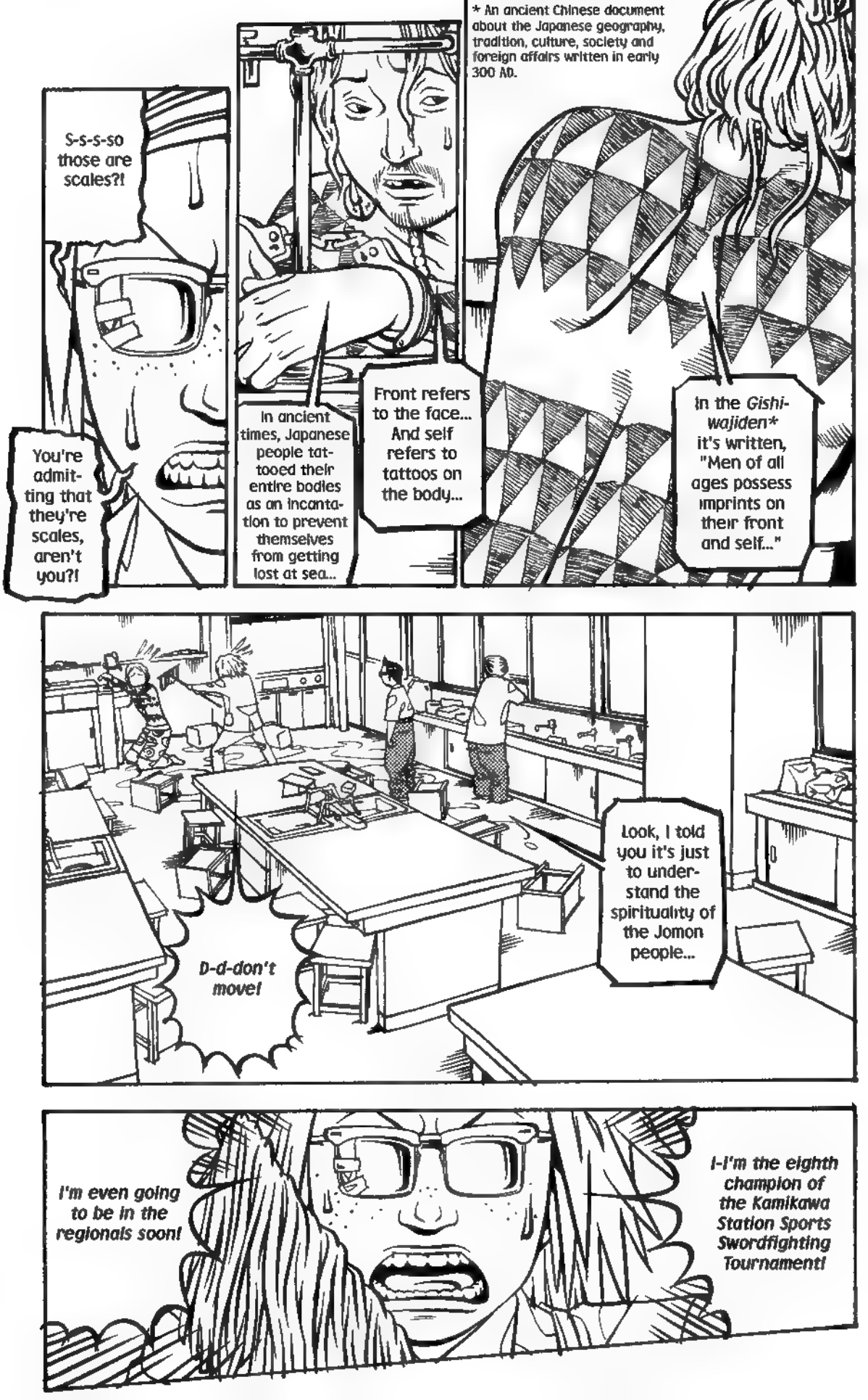


BLOCK 2-3



[The Second Utensil]

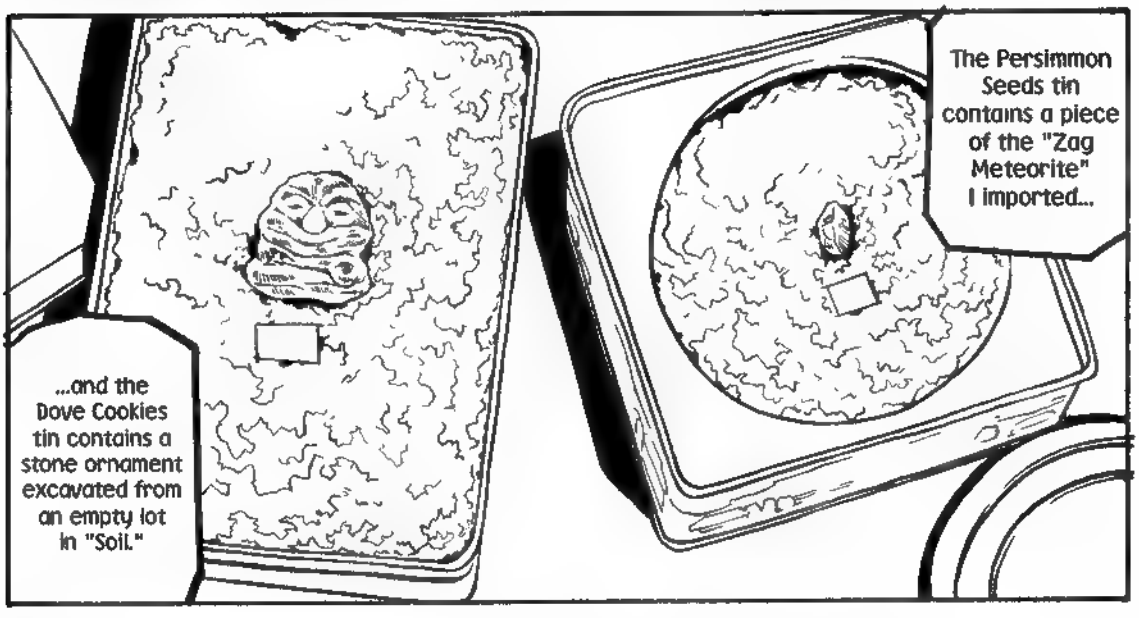
Everything's arbitrary and random in this world anyway.
That's why I don't consider your stupidity to be a sin, Seki.
Stop eating your boogers!
And since we have no future, we have no sins.
We have no future in the first place.

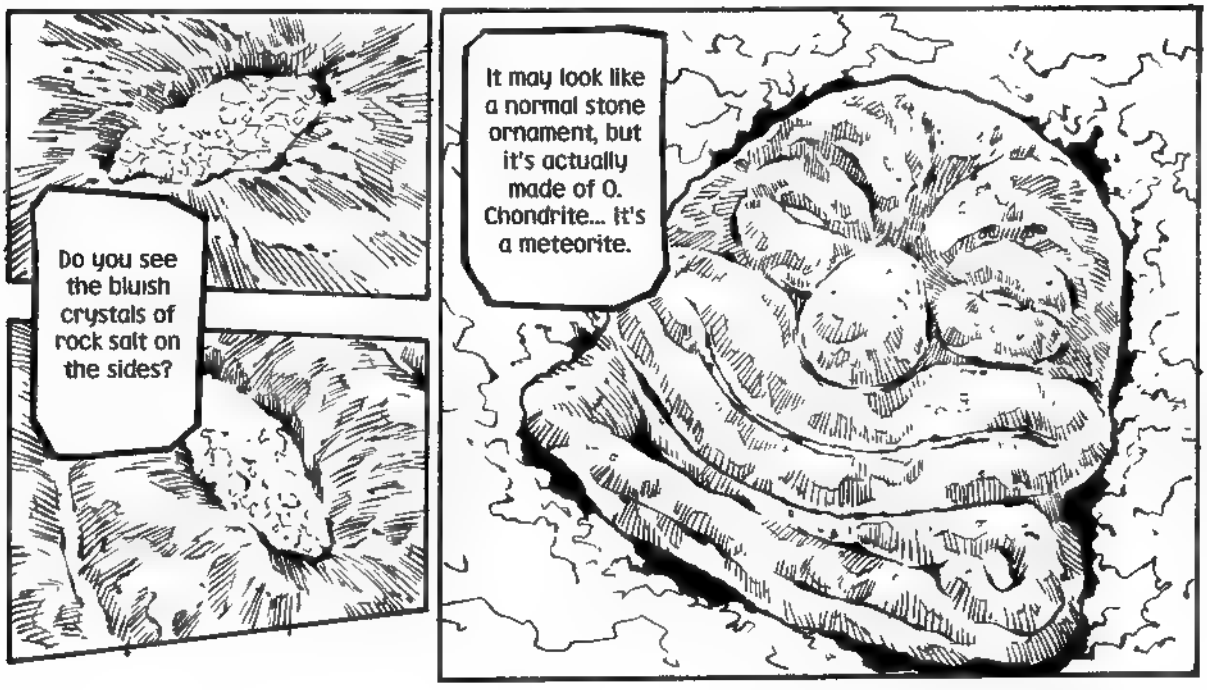

* An ancient Chinese document about the Japanese geography, tradition, culture, society and foreign affairs written in early 300 AD.
S-s-s-so those are scales?!
You're admitting that they're scales, aren't you?!
In ancient times, Japanese people tattooed their entire bodies as an incantation to prevent themselves from getting lost at sea...
Front refers to the face... And self refers to tattoos on the body...
In the *Gishiwajiden** it's written, "Men of all ages possess imprints on their front and self..."
D-d-don't move!
Look, I told you it's just to understand the spirituality of the Jomon people...
I'm even going to be in the regionals soon!
I-I'm the eighth champion of the Kamikawa Station Sports Swordfighting Tournament!

I'm about to accomplish something as a detective!
I'm finally drawing closer to the crux of this case!
...
Doesn't that sound so pathetic it makes you sad?
Sports... What?
Sh-sh-shut up, middle schoolers!
O-o-okay, tell me about the "salt!"
What about the "salt?!"
WHIP
FWIP
CHK
Wh-wh-wh-what was your objective?!
I saw your name on the store records!
You purchased the meteorite containing alien "salt!"

Meteor-ite...?
A-alien ...?
...
Wh-why has a mountain of "salt" that shouldn't even exist on the Earth appeared in this town?!
I mean like, why?! How come?!
E-e-explain yourself!
Huh?!
SLIDE
TAP TAP
Open it, middle school-ers!
Drawer ?!
Inside that drawer...
Persimmon Seeds
柿の種
Dove Cookies
鳩サブレ

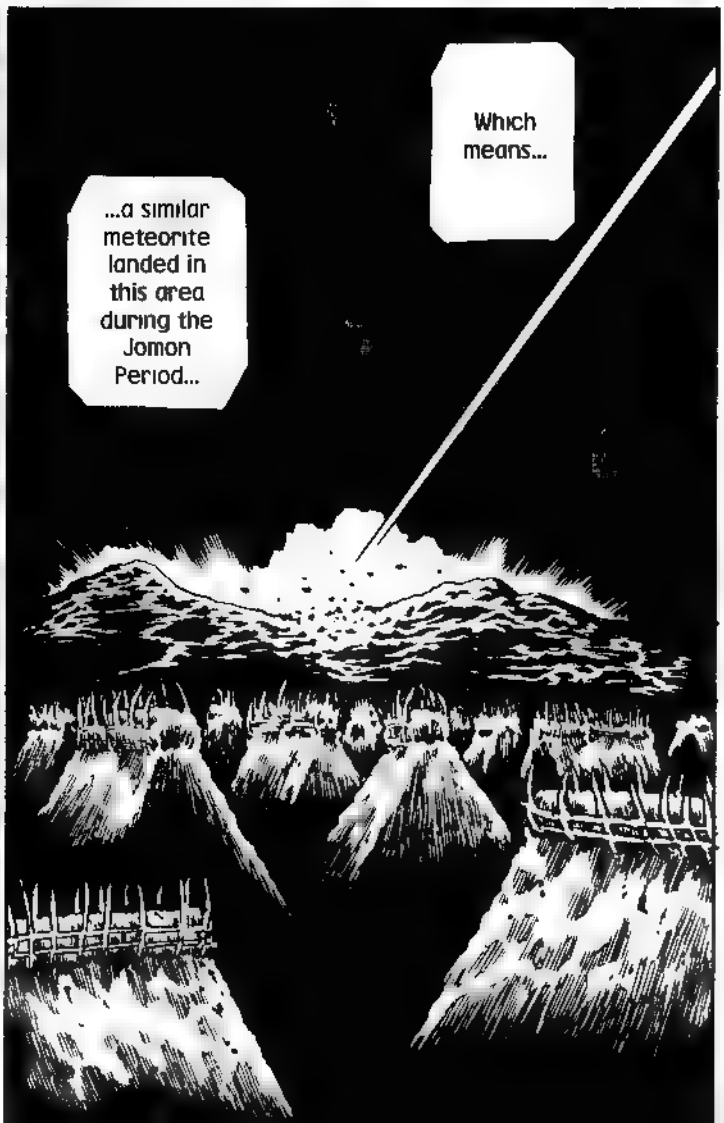
Look inside.
P-Persimmon Seeds and Dove Cookies...?!


The Persimmon Seeds tin contains a piece of the "Zag Meteorite" I imported...
...and the Dove Cookies tin contains a stone ornament excavated from an empty lot in "Soil."


Do you see the bluish crystals of rock salt on the sides?
It may look like a normal stone ornament, but it's actually made of O. Chondrite... It's a meteorite.

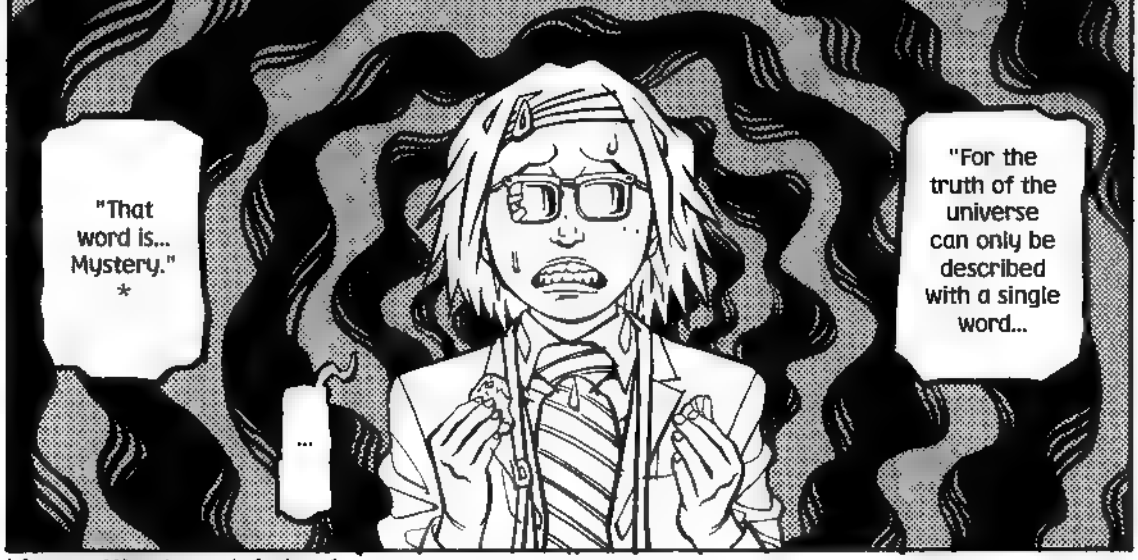
...which existed over 4.5 billion years ago, and are two of the oldest minerals in the solar system.
They're virtually impossible to find on Earth.
...
Both of them contain Xenon 129 and Argon 40...

...and the ancient people...
...viewed this "foreign object" from the sky as a religious device, and used it to sculpt the ornament.

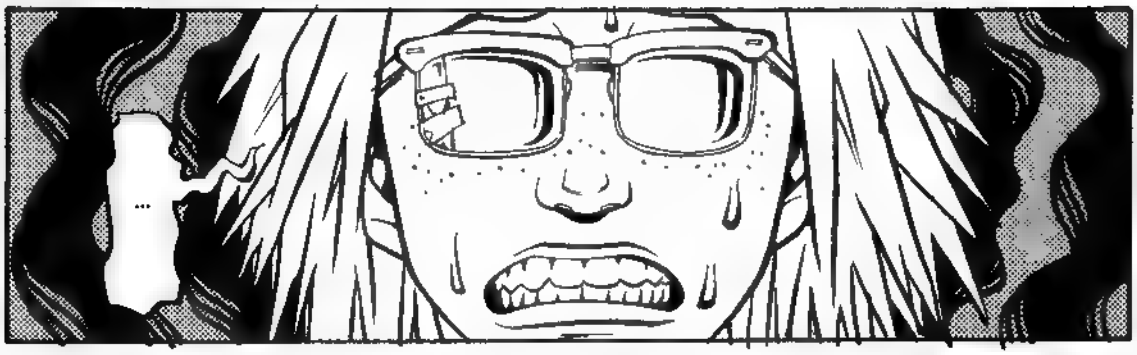

Which means...
...a similar meteorite landed in this area during the Jomon Period...

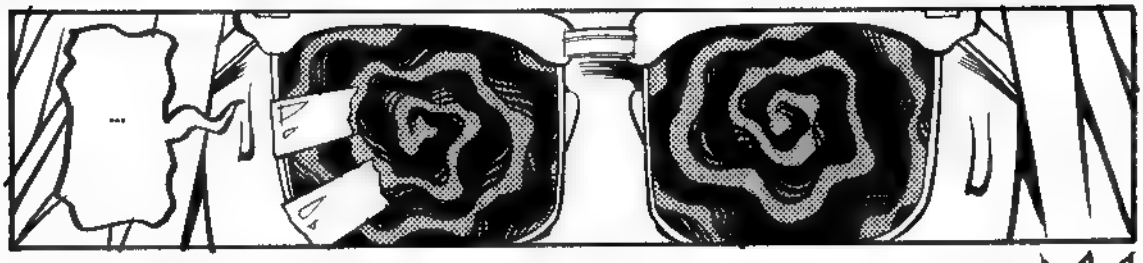
But...
But...?!
I was thinking about using that as a theme for my thesis...
I imported a piece of the "Zag Meteorite" in order to run a comparative analysis...
Then the "salt mountain" suddenly appeared in the school yard...

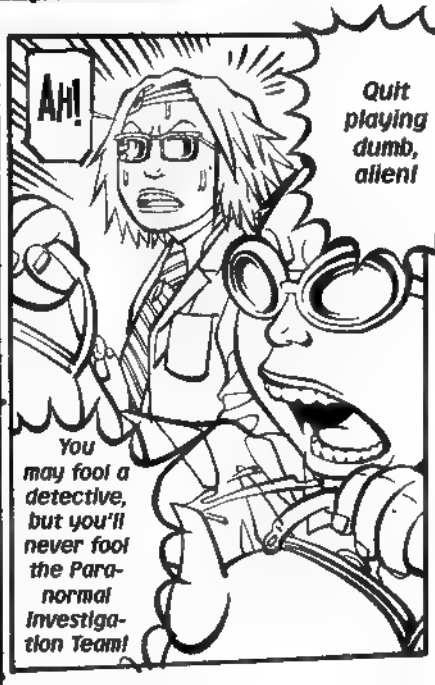
...so I ran some tests, and...
The bluish tint caught my eye...
...as the "salt" on the meteorite...?
It was exactly the same...
Forget about my thesis...
I'm the one looking for an explanation...
That thing refutes every single geological and archeological finding ever made...
...



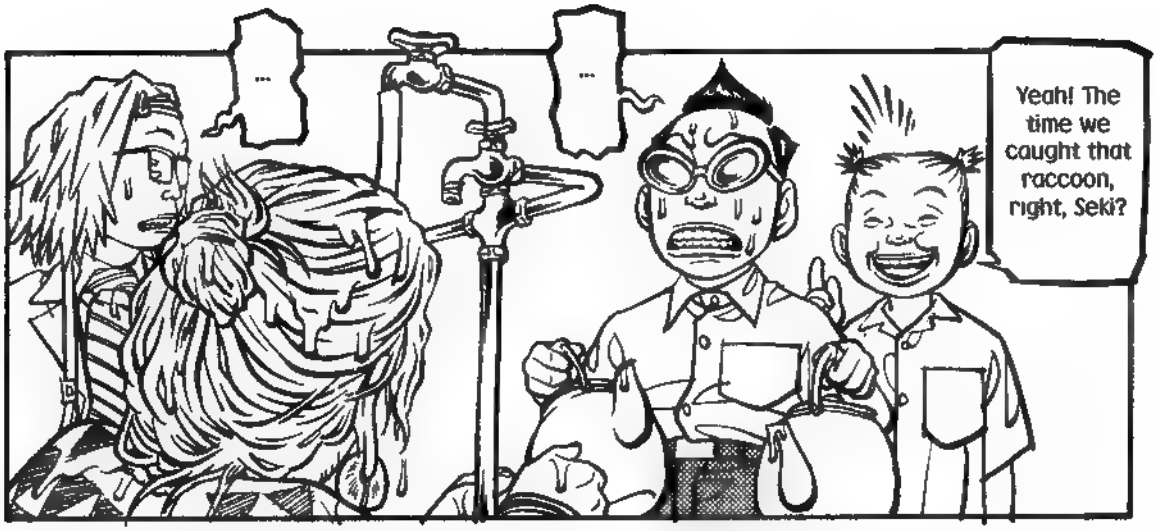
* See page 133 in chapter 4 of volume 1

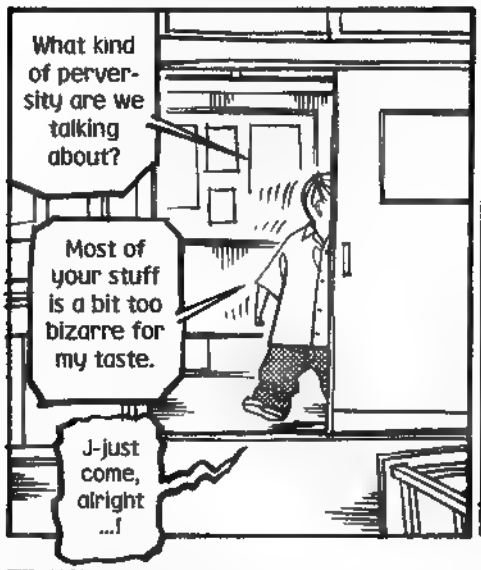


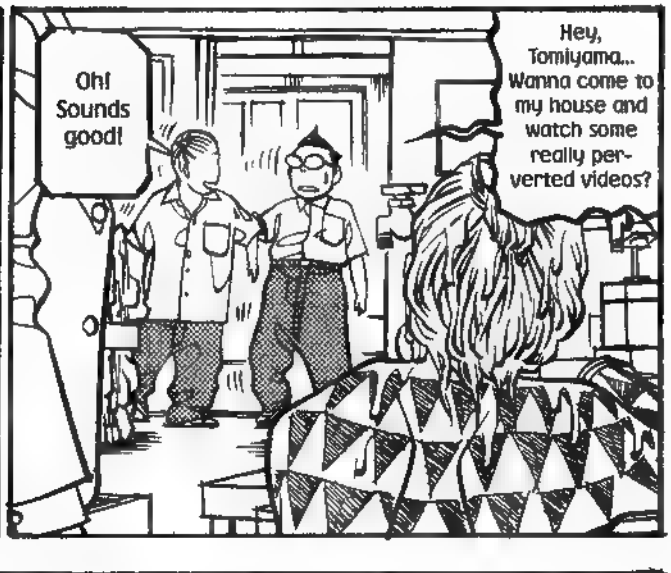


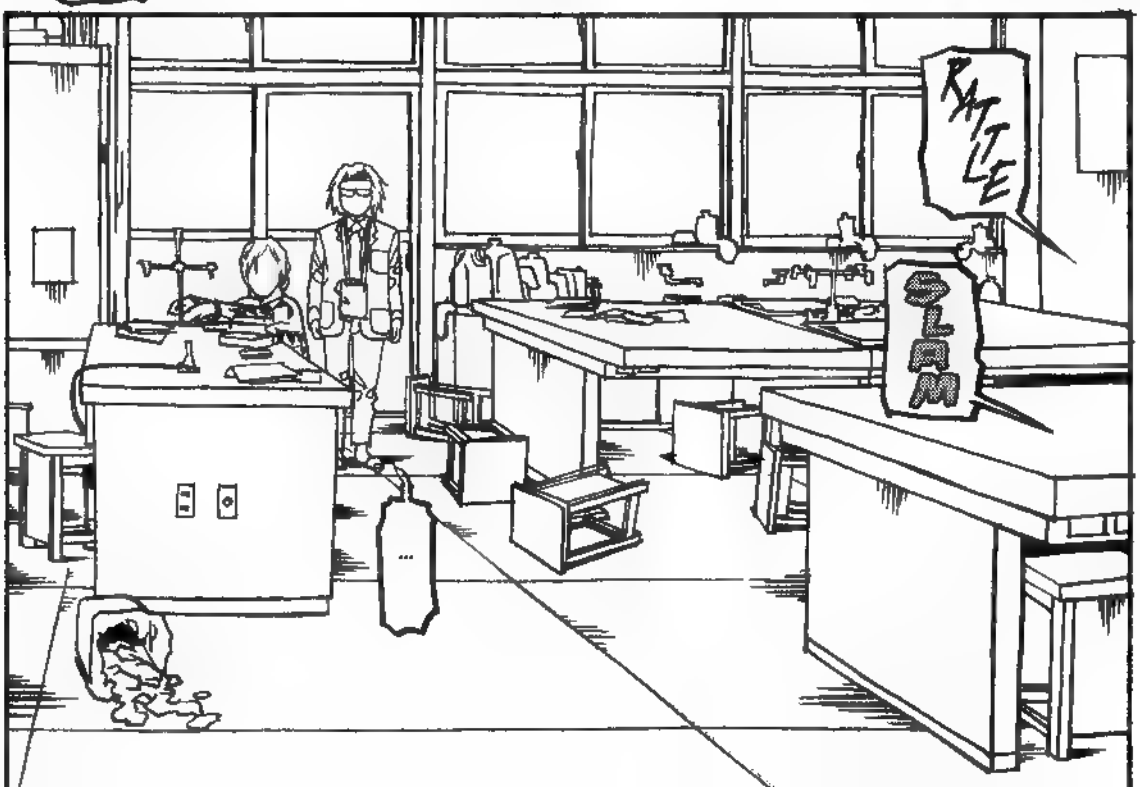


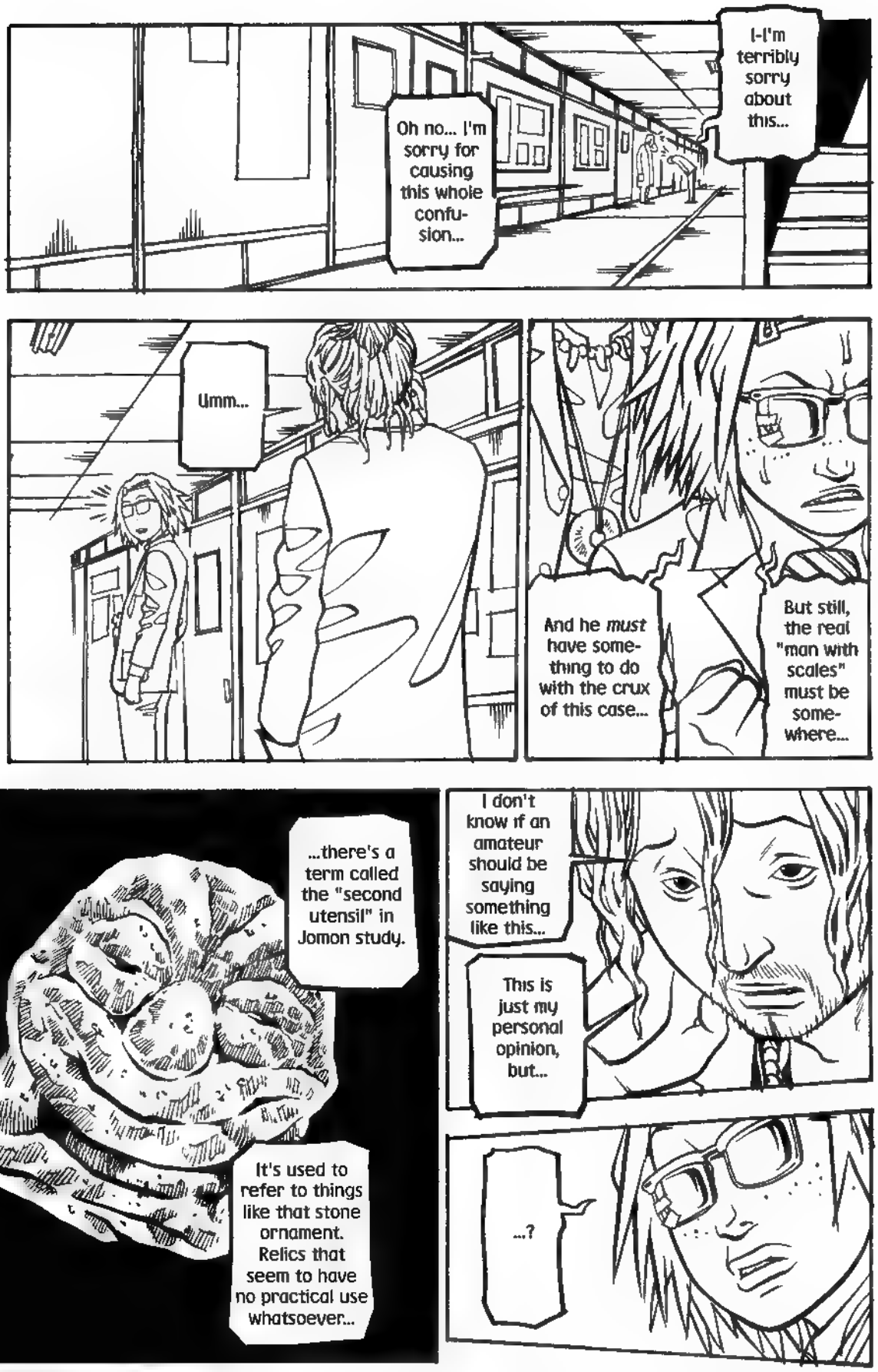
Oh!
What?!
I was with you two, remember?!
...and I was forced to come along as the club supervisor.
You told me there was an unidentified creature in the underground parking lot of the train station...
...and we couldn't get out till the next morning, remember?!
We got trapped inside because of the blackout...


...
...
Yeah! The time we caught that raccoon, right, Seki?


What kind of perversity are we talking about?
Most of your stuff is a bit too bizarre for my taste.
J-just come, alright ...!

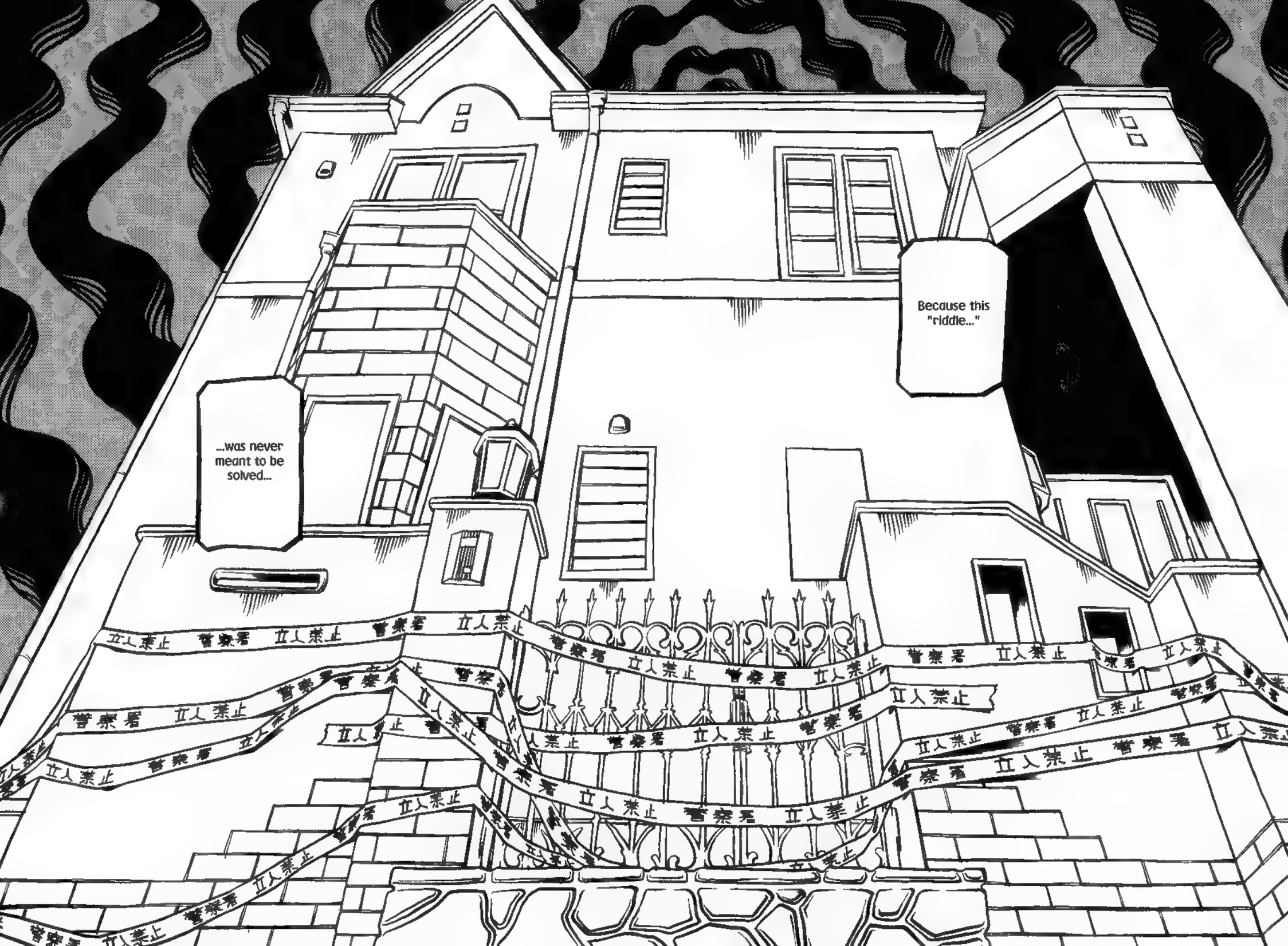

Oh! Sounds good!
Hey, Tomiyama... Wanna come to my house and watch some really perverted videos?

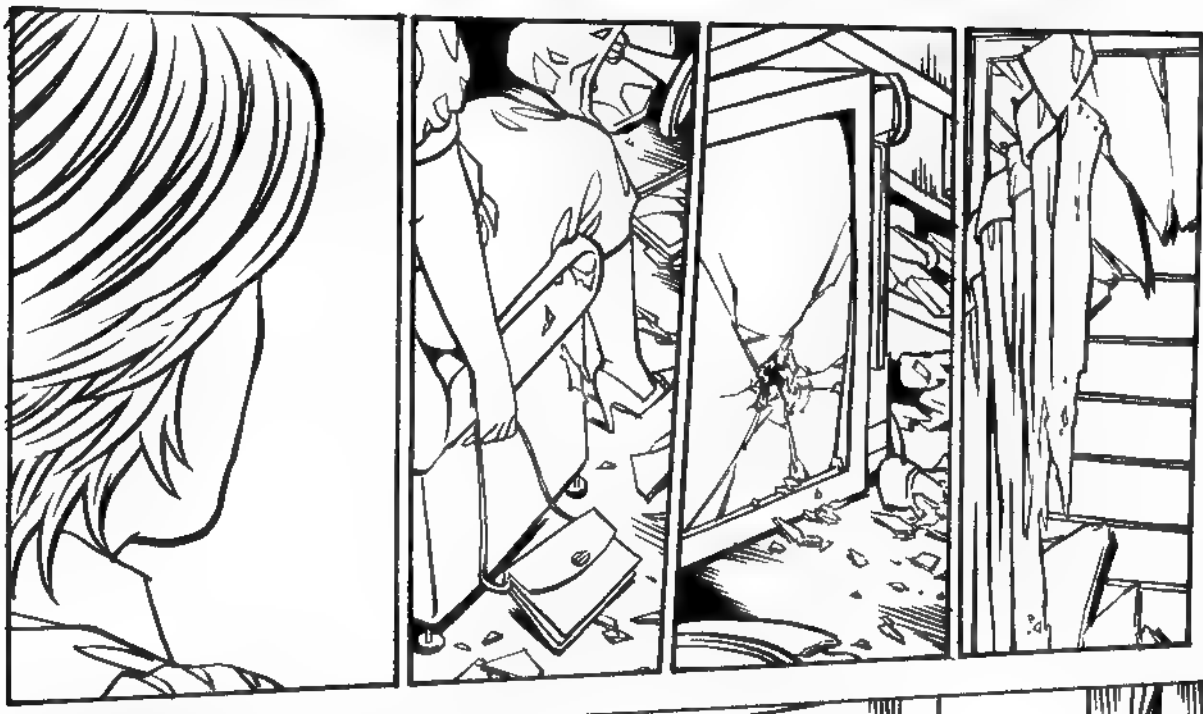

RATTLE
...

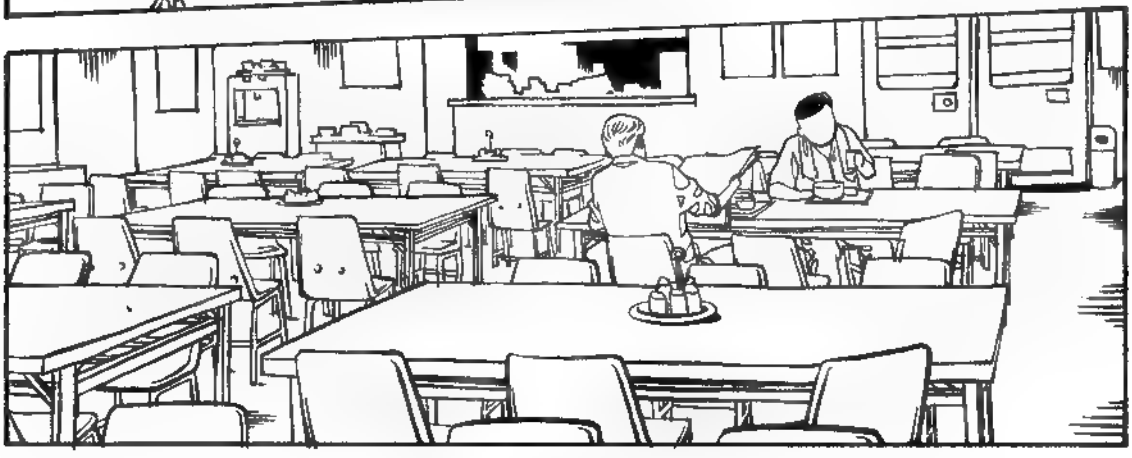

I-I'm terribly sorry about this...
Oh no... I'm sorry for causing this whole confu-sion...
Umm...
And he *must* have some-thing to do with the crux of this case...
But still, the real "man with scales" must be some-where...
...there's a term called the "second utensil" in Jomon study.
It's used to refer to things like that stone ornament. Relics that seem to have no practical use whatsoever...
I don't know if an amateur should be saying something like this...
This is just my personal opinion, but...
...?

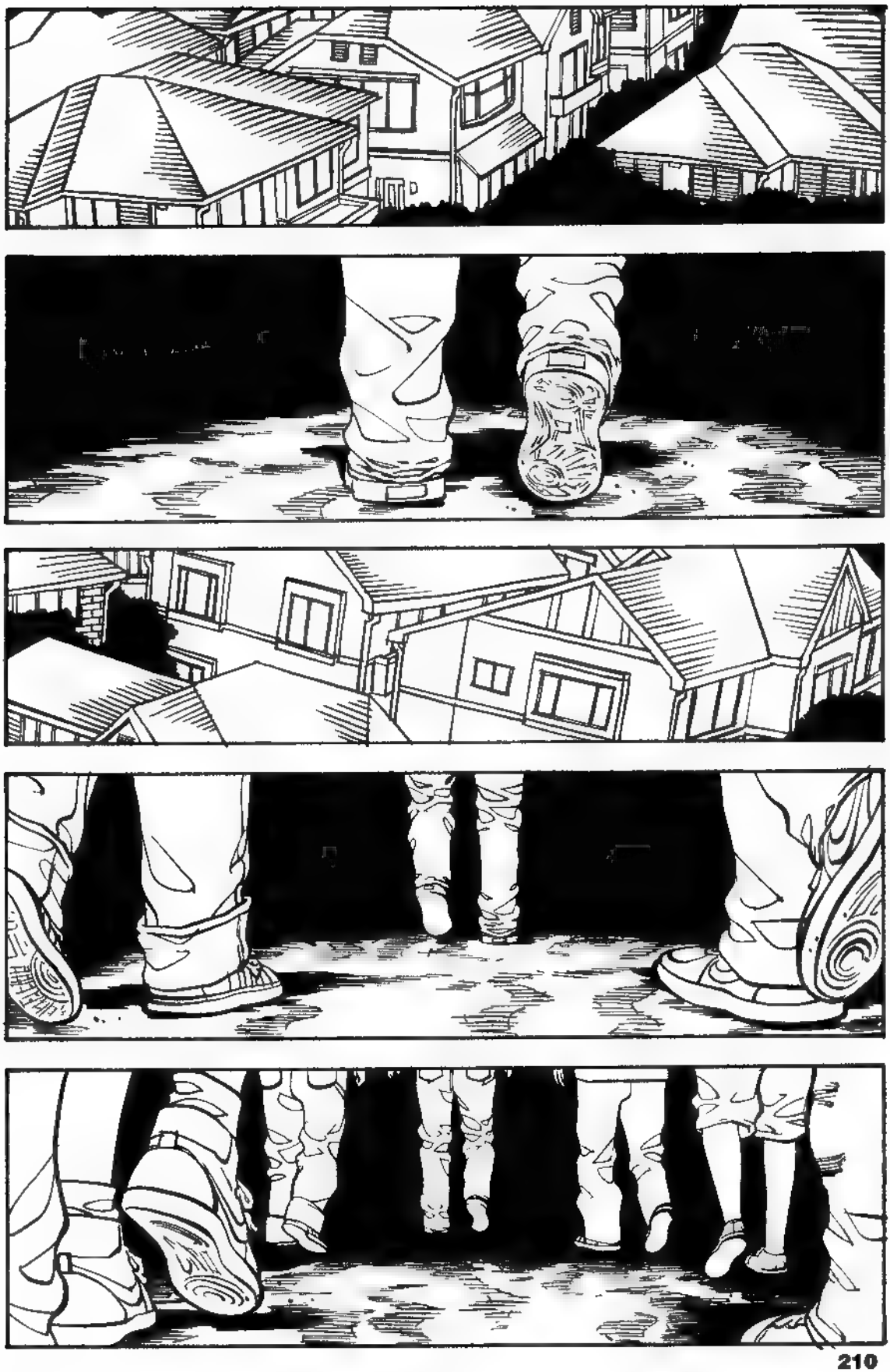
They seem to exist just for the sake of existing...
Trying to apply reason and logic to those relics doesn't get you anywhere...
But some are just so incompre-hensible...
Most of them are simply explained away as items of religious significance...
"Mysteries" that exist just for the sake of it...
Pure "mysteries," I guess...
I think this world contains "mys-teries" that are meant to be solved, and "mysteries" that aren't meant to be solved...
...
...also falls into that category.
Perhaps this case...

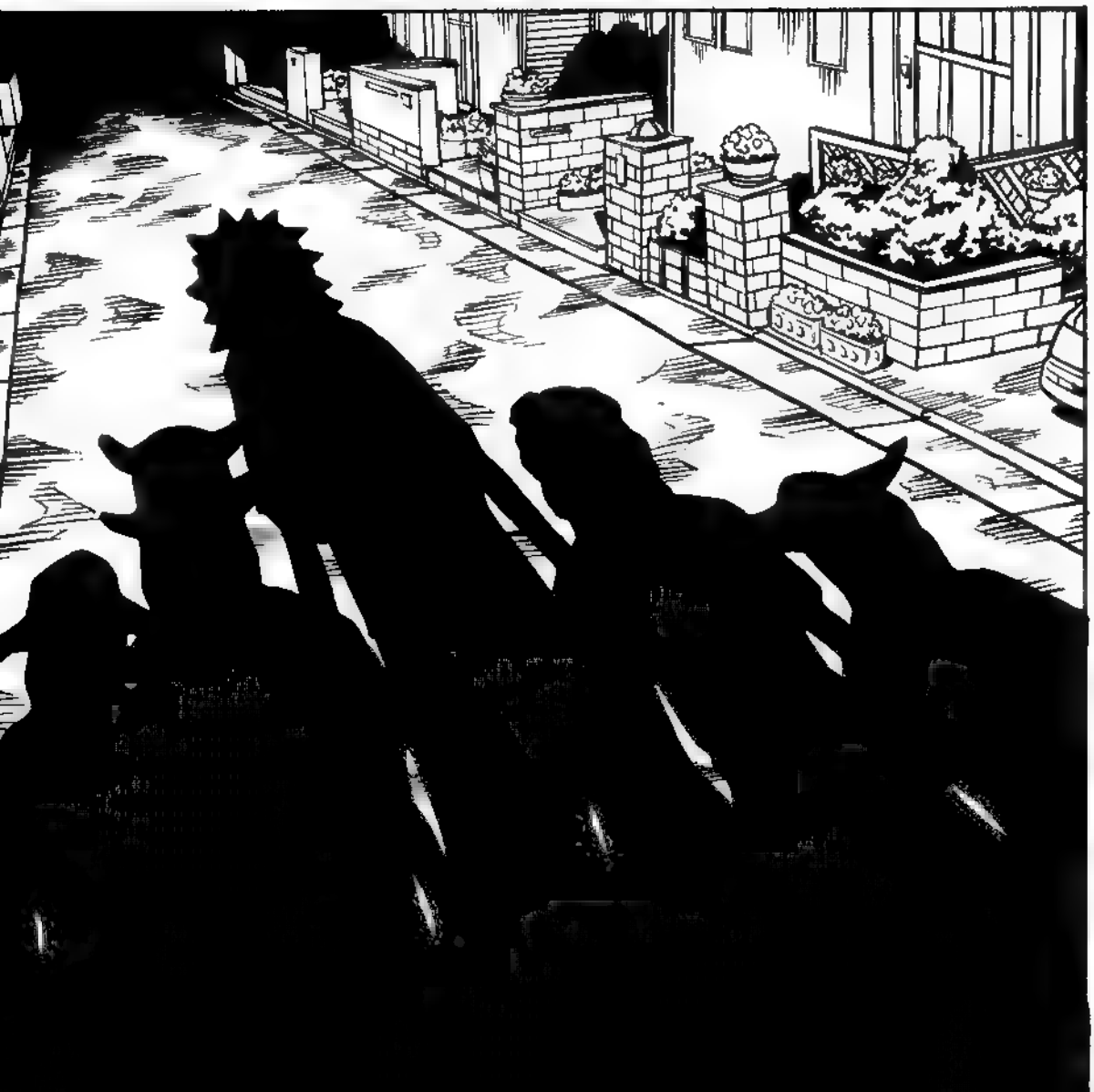
That ecstasy ...
...was simply indescrib-able.
No matter how hard you people try to under-stand it...
...you will never be able to obtain a satisfactory explanation.

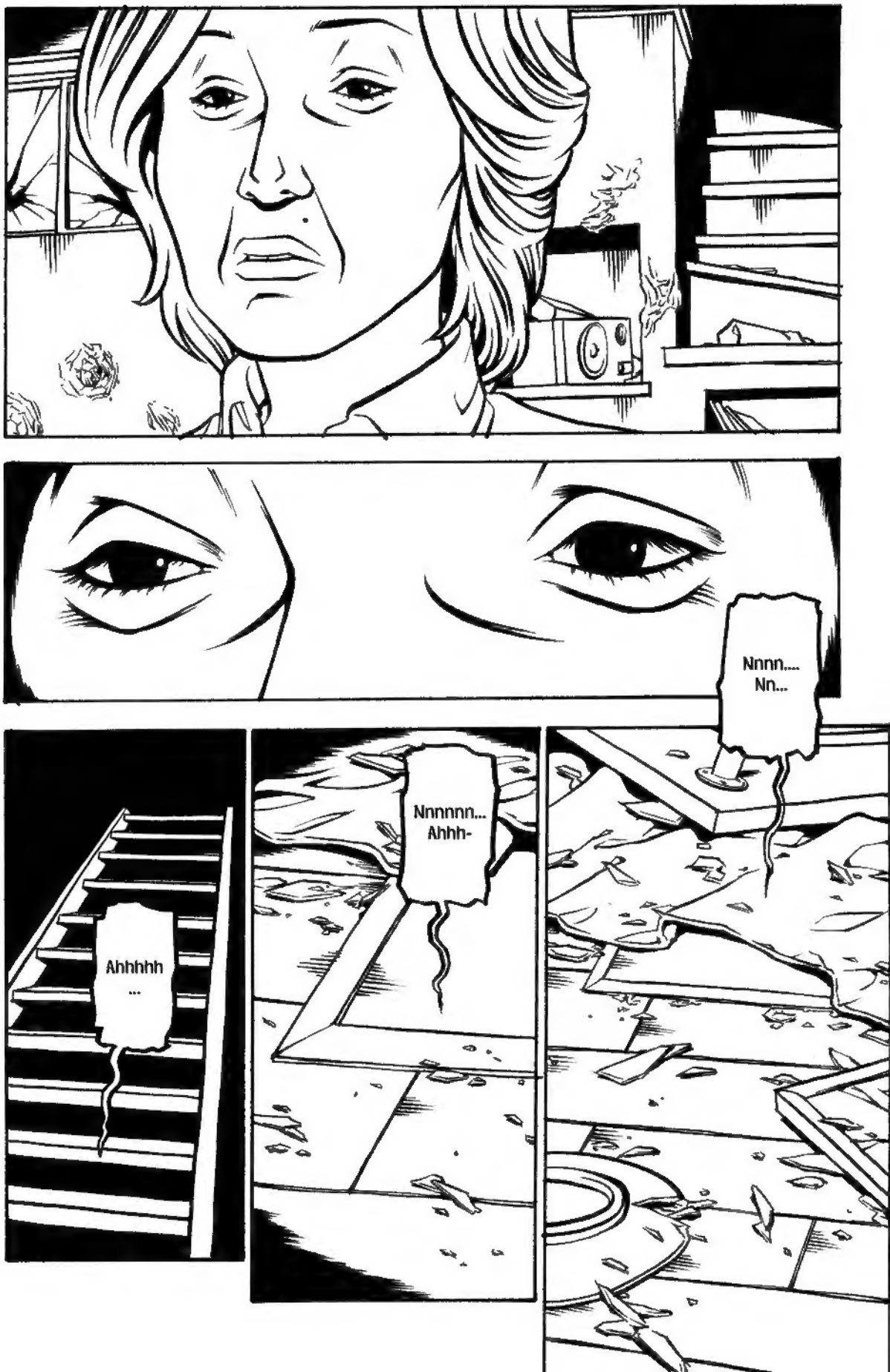

...was never meant to be solved...
Because this "riddle..."
立入禁止 警察署

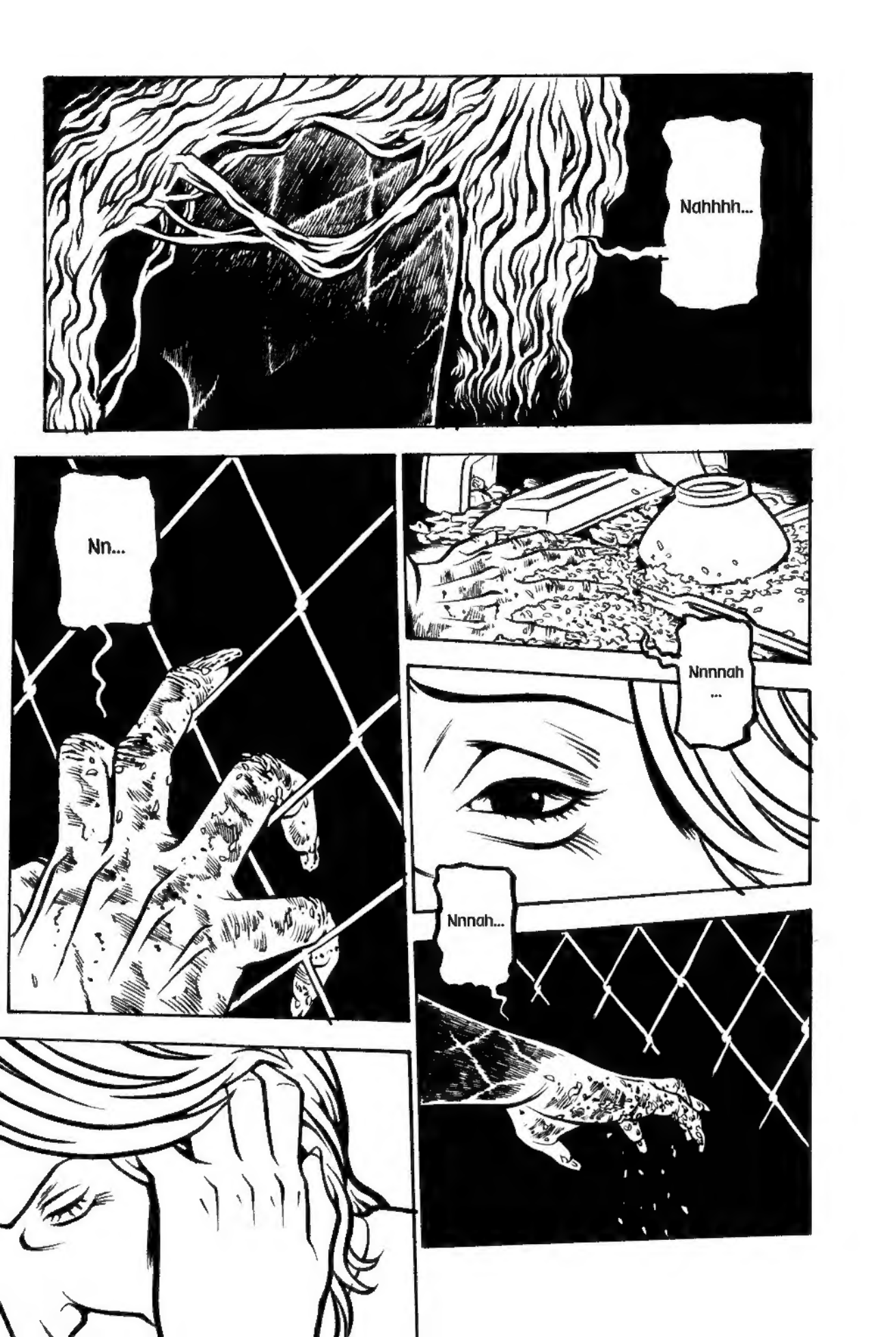


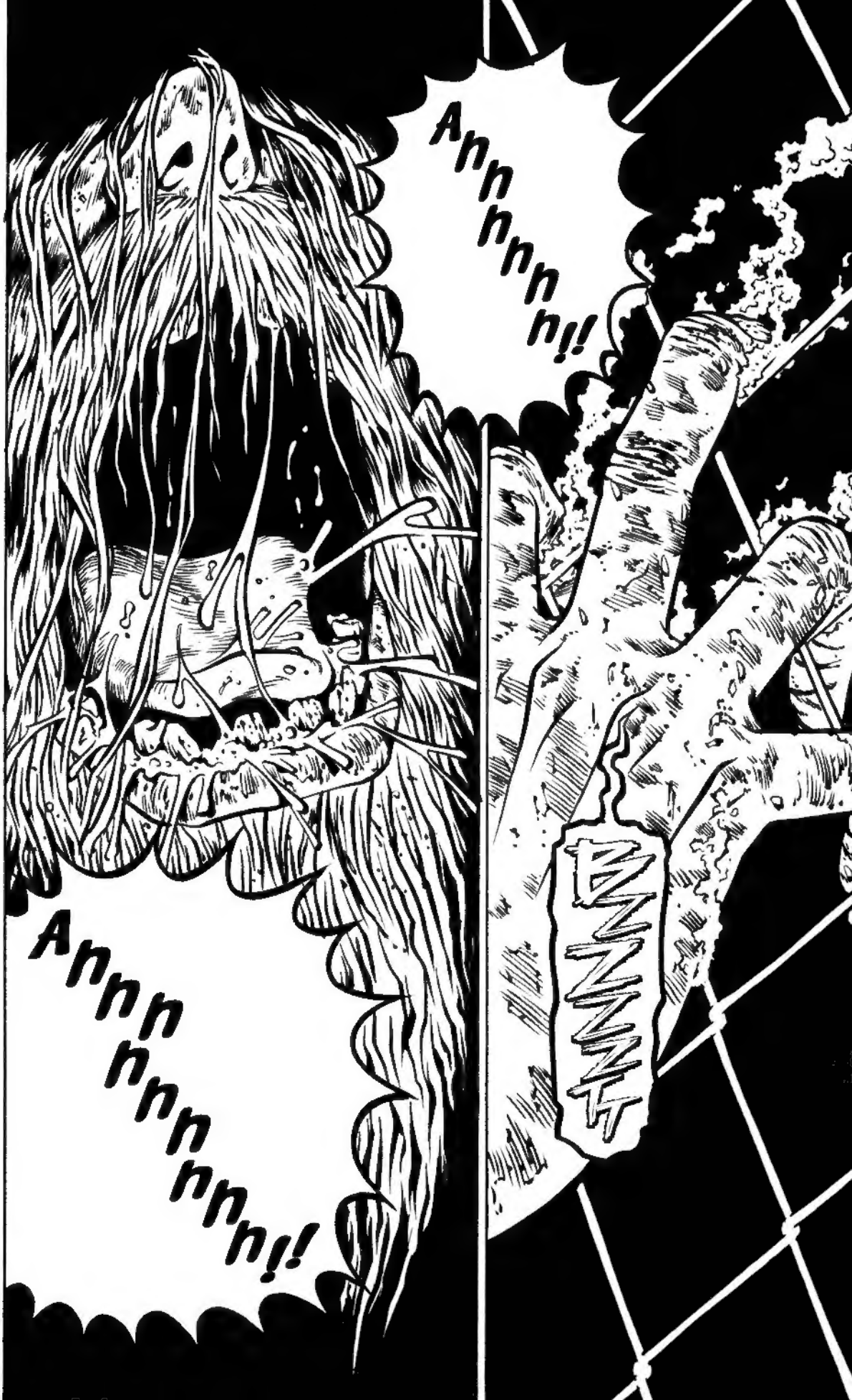







Nnnn....
Nn...
Ahhhhh
...
Nnnnnn...
Ahhh-


Nahhhh...
Nn...
Nnnnah ...
Nnnah...


Annnnn!!
BZZZZT
Annnnnnnn!!

SOIL［ソイル］3 END

To be continued in the next volume.

The "man with scales" screams in the basement below the house of Kosaka, the school counselor... Kento's disappearance, the recurring abnormalities, the mysterious salt. As soon as one mystery is solved, another takes its place. And the world is driven mad.

Intoxicate yourself in the intricately woven chaos. This sweet and dangerous labyrinth of mystery. A stunning new development awaits in Volume 4.